FBIS DAILY REPORT

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FBIS FOREIGN BROADCAST INFORMATION SERVICE

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VOP REPORTS TEXT OF STATEMENT ISSUED BY PCC

JN221910Y Voice of Palestine [Clandestine] in Arabic to the Arab World 1718 GMT 22 May 78 JN

[Text of PCC statement issued on 21 May 1978 in Damascus--read by announcer]

[Text] The PLO's Central Council met in Damascus on 20-21 May 1978 under brother Khalid al-Fahum, chairman of the Palestine National Council, and was attended by the chairman and members of the PLO Executive Committee. The Executive Committee presented a comprehensive review of the current Arab stand and the latest developments of the Palestinian issue on the local, Arab and international levels. It also explained the goals of the Zionist invasion of Lebanon, its repercussions and the developments in the heroic fight waged by the Palestinian revolution forces and the nationalist forces against the Zionist invasion. It further explained the contacts and the activities recently staged by the PLO Executive Committee.

As a result of the discussions, the council concluded by stressing the following:

First: On the Palestinian level:

1. The council calls for surmounting the obstacles which hamper national unity, as well as surmounting marginal differences. It calls for developing Palestinian relations by democratic dialog among the factions of the resistance movement so as to attain an advanced level of unified joint work. This will be in accordance with the primary principles and relations and on the basis of a clear unionist program according to the decisions of the Palestine national councils. This unity will develop the capacity for struggle in the face of the challenges imposed during the current stage, the foremost of which are the U.S.-Israeli plans aimed at imposing a capitulatory settlement on the region--a solution contrary to the national rights of our people and the pan-Arab interests of our Arab nation.

2. The Central Council affirms that confrontation of the Zionist enemy and the imperialist forces supporting him requires serious and perseverant work to enable the Palestinian revolution forces to exercise their responsibilities and tasks through all the fronts surrounding Palestine and to overcome all obstacles which prevent this.

3. The Central Council greets our people in the occupied homeland, who bravely face the Zionist enemy, his occupation and his aggressive and settlement policy as well as his racist and fascist exercises and liquidationist plans. It also salutes their support for the PLO and its political course and calls on the Arab, Islamic and friendly countries to support their heroic steadfastness on the material and moral levels.

4. The Central Council recommends the convocation of the Palestine National Council [PNC] in the middle of next August, with the venue to be decided later on.

Second: On the Lebanese level:

1. The Central Council affirms its confidence in the Lebanese-Palestinian fraternity and calls for deepening relations with the Lebanese people with all their national, pan-Arab and progressive forces on the basis of respect for the sovereignty and independence of Lebanon as well as the unity of its territories and people.

The council also stresses that adherence to the Cairo agreement and its appendixes, concluded between the Lebanese authority and the PLO, including the procedural agreement of Shtawrah, is a confirmation of Lebanese sovereignty. The council also notes the continuation of the imperialist-Zionist scheme to explode the situation through the forces and elements which agree with it in order to strike at the Palestinian revolution, stability and the march of peace in Lebanon. The scheme also seeks to exert pressure on Syria by means of the Lebanese arena in order to weaken the unified Palestinian-Syrian stand, which constitutes the central link in the confrontation and steadfastness in the face of capitulatory U.S.-Zionist settlements and schemes.

2. The PCC affirms that its concept of the mission of the UN forces in southern Lebanon is to supervise Israel's total withdrawal from Lebanese territories.

Third: On the Arab level:

1. While affirming its belief in the importance of and necessity for Arab solidarity, the PCC believes that this solidarity should have as its basis the ability to serve the objectives of the Arab nation--liberation, return and regaining the national rights of the Palestinian Arab people. It also affirms that the sound content of Arab solidarity should be founded on a commitment to repulse the Zionist occupation and the imperialist forces which support and back its aggression and expansion. Arab solidarity requires the mobilization of Arab political, military, economic and oil potentials, which should be devoted to the service of the Arab nation's issues, particularly the central Arab issue of Palestine. They should also be used against the Zionist enemy and his schemes, as well as against the forces which share in and support his aggression. This applies particularly to the United States, which is hostile to the Arab nation's aspirations and which denies the national inalienable rights of the Palestinian Arab people, especially their rights to return, to self-determination and to establishment of their independent state on their national soil under the leadership of the PLO, the sole legitimate representative of the Palestinian people. In this regard the PCC rejects the call to any Arab summit which falls under the shadow of President as-Sadat's policy.

2. The PCC stresses the necessity to strengthen the pan-Arab front for steadfastness and confrontation and to consolidate its politico-strategic line by seeking to convene a summit conference for the front as soon as possible in order to complete its charter and formulate a plan of action for the coming stage.

3. The PCC recommends the expeditious implementation of the resolutions of the conference of the steadfastness and confrontation front which were taken in Algiers to contact the Republic of Iraq so that it will join this front and shoulder its responsibility in it.

4. The PCC hails our Arab people in Egypt and their nationalist forces which are struggling to safeguard the real interests of our Arab nation and repulse the suspect attempts and schemes which conflict with the national rights of the Palestinian Arab people and are thus in the service of Zionism and U.S. imperialism.

5. The PCC hails the masses of the Arab nation for their sincere and firm stand to protect and support the Palestinian people, particularly for their stand in the struggle, and for their material and moral support for the forces of the Palestinian revolution during their repulsion of the Zionist invasion of southern Lebanon.

Fourth: On the international level:

The PCC stresses the necessity of seeking to strengthen the intrinsic potentials of the Palestinian revolution and the Arab forces which stand against the U.S.-Israeli-capitulatory schemes. It also stresses the necessity of seeking to strengthen the bonds of friendship and alliance with our friends--headed by the Soviet Union and the socialist, Islamic and nonalined countries--so as to insure the possibility of regaining our rights and putting an end to the injustice from which our people have been suffering since 1948.

The Arab capabilities, which are committed to the will of liberation and which rely upon the backing of friends for our just cause are capable of realizing our national and pan-Arab objectives and of defeating the capitulatory trend which conflicts with the interests of our people and nation.

Glory and immortality to our innocent martyrs! The revolution will continue until victory.

REJECTIONIST LEADER INTERVIEWED BY BAGHDAD PAPER

JN221030Y Baghdad INA in Arabic 0720 GMT 22 May 78 JN

[Text] Baghdad, 22 May--Dr Samir Ghawshah, secretary of the Palestinian rejectionist front, has stressed that the relationship with the UN emergency forces depends on their ability to bring about complete Israeli withdrawal from southern Lebanon. Ghawshah said: Failure to do this will lead to friction with these forces, particularly if they stand in the way of the Lebanese and Palestinian resistance. Ghawshah said that if the UNIFIL goes beyond its basic mission many troubles will arise, particularly if it tries to stand against the Lebanese nationalist forces and the Palestinian resistance movement. These statements were contained in a dialog between Ghawshah and the newspaper AL-JUMHURIYAH published here today.

In his statements Ghawshah pointed to the future of relations between the Palestinian revolution and the Lebanese state in light of the plans put forward recently at the Lebanese political level, including the 13-article document endorsed by the Chamber of Deputies. He described this document as a product of the Lebanese bourgeois. He said that this document augurs an acute political conflict in Lebanon and possibly certain forms of military conflict. He said that this bourgeois, under the cover of sovereignty and legitimacy, wants to win concessions [from the nationalist forces] through political conflict while trying to expedite building a repressive Lebanese force (?through) the authority of an army being constituted in a way to serve the rightist line.

Referring to the nature of relations among the Palestinian revolution groups, Ghawshah said that the differences prevailing among these groups will affect the future of the Palestinian struggle. He pointed out that these differences are caused by "certain stands adopted by the PLO official leadership." He said: Despite the unionist Palestinian document of Tripoli which was supposed to constitute an approach and a foundation for Palestinian national unity based on political programs of struggle, we see the contrary. Certain parties have resorted to deviating methods that threatened to cause explosion and internecine fighting in the Palestinian situation.

Ghawshah said that the political differences facing the Palestinian situation are the result of certain stands adopted by the Palestinian right that are aimed at keeping bridges open with the As-Sadat regime, trying to effect reconciliation with the Jordanian regime and other political moves which indicate in one way or another that these leaders still have illusions about a settlement.

Ghawshah continued, saying: "The most serious thing issued lately was the suspect call for the Palestinians to give up overt military presence and also the call for ending the plurality of the organizations." He pointed out that this call "threatens explosions inside the Palestinian arena on the one hand and seriously endangers the Palestinian struggle on the other." He called on the revolutionary, democratic and national Palestinian forces to quickly hold a dialog to draw up a democratic national Palestinian program as a basis for a Palestinian progressive national front which will undertake to struggle for a unified Palestinian stand and to continue confronting all capitulatory solutions, primarily As-Sadat's treacherous initiative and policy.

Speaking on the rejectionist front's stand toward the current call to convene an Arab summit conference, Ghawshah said that the successive calls to convene a summit conference and form committees and to intensify contacts under the motto of "Arab solidarity" in one way or another serve the capitulatory solutions and the imperialist plan, particularly since these calls are used as a cover for [support of] As-Sadat's treacherous initiative and policy, which wagers on U.S. imperialism. He said that what draws attention is "the spreading of illusions that As-Sadat will give up his line and announce his failure." He said that this continues despite the fact that As-Sadat repeatedly states that he adheres to his treacherous initiative. Ghawshah stressed the seriousness that comes from raising the slogan of Arab solidarity while As-Sadat continues his policy.

Ghawshah stressed that the sound pan-Arab stand "requires tightening the siege on the As-Sadat regime and isolating him, while supporting the progressive and national forces to overthrow this regime and restore the pioneering role of the Egyptian people to their national and pan-Arab duty."

VOP ON HUSAYN'S REPORTED REVIVAL OF UK PLAN

JN221820Y Voice of Palestine [Clandestine] in Arabic to the Arab World 1625 GMT 22 May 78 JN

[Unattributed commentary]

[Excerpt] A few days after As-Sadat's proposal to return the West Bank to Jordan and the Gaza Strip to Egypt, news reports were circulated which claimed that King Husayn was trying to revive his old plan, which bears the name of the United Kingdom, for the establishment of a federal union between the two banks within the framework of his kingdom. There is no doubt that this attempt by King Husayn and its link with As-Sadat's proposal strongly suggest that King Husayn is about to enter the arena of the American-Zionist-As-Sadat settlement through an old door, the United Kingdom. This follows King Husayn's adoption of seemingly ambiguous and contradictory stands toward As-Sadat's initiative and moves toward a settlement in the region.

Despite the fact that King Husayn seems to seek Arab support for his attempt--after he had certainly obtained support from As-Sadat--there are objective political facts which doom the King's attempt to failure, just as it failed at the moment of its birth seven years ago. Among these facts are the following:

1. Application of the scheme of the United Kingdom would torpedo the resolutions of the Algiers and Rabat summit conferences, which stressed the PLO's right to represent the Palestinian people and their leadership, and also to speak on their behalf. These resolutions have also required, in return, that King Husayn be stopped from participating in anything related to the Palestinian issue and that his old role which he took control of by [words indistinct] be ended.

2. The Palestinian masses in the occupied homeland and outside [words indistinct] the struggle and its glowing fire have announced their rejection of the United Kingdom scheme. In return, they adhere to the PLO, its course of struggle and political program. Thus, the United Kingdom scheme, which is rejected by the Palestinian masses, will not offer a solution--even if compulsory--because those who thwarted the schemes of occupation and prevented their consecration are able to thwart the scheme of the United Kingdom [words indistinct].

3. The whole world talks about an independent Palestinian state as a basis for any solution of the Palestinian issue and the Middle East crisis. This is an accomplishment that can be achieved by the Palestinian people through their struggle and great sacrifices. If the Arabs propose any solution less than this, they will make the Palestinian people lose a great international accomplishment--and even conspire against this accomplishment now and in the future. In the same manner, the revolution, backed by all the Palestinian and Arab masses, has always been a good defender of its accomplishments; it will defend this accomplishment with all available forces and potentials.

REPORTS ON PALESTINIAN-FRENCH CLASHES DENIED

JN221827Y Baghdad INA in Arabic 1815 GMT 22 May 78 JN

[Text] Beirut, 22 May--An official spokesman of the Palestinian resistance has denied the occurrence of clashes between Palestinian elements and French troops near 'Abbasiyah or in other areas.

The spokesman added that referring to the Palestinian resistance in such statements is designed to harm relations between the French people and the Palestinian resistance.

The rightist information media have disseminated reports on the occurrence of clashes between the French troops and the Palestinian revolution forces.

UNIFIL REPORTEDLY HARASSES FEDAYEEN IN LEBANON

JN211910Y Baghdad Voice of Palestine in Arabic 1830 GMT 21 May 78 JN

[Text] Reports received from southern Lebanon today say that yesterday the UNIFIL forces began patrolling the mountainous areas in an attempt to prevent our fighters from returning to the areas where the Zionist enemy has withdrawn in southern Lebanon. The reports add that the French force in the region sent foot patrols to areas south of the city of Tyre. Meanwhile, the Nigerian force set up advanced checkpoints 16 km from the border with usurped Palestine. The UNIFIL forces prevented groups of the joint forces from carrying out their missions against the Zionist enemy forces in southern Lebanon.

'ARAFAT CONFERS WITH IRAQI AMBASSADOR IN BEIRUT

JN191714Y Voice of Palestine [Clandestine] in Arabic to the Arab World 1600 GMT 19 May 78 JN

[Text] Brother Abu 'Ammar this morning received Mr Qasim as-Samawi, Iraqi ambassador in Beirut. Our correspondent learned that the meeting dealt with the current situation in the region.

BAHRAIN

MINISTER DISCUSSES ECONOMIC COOPERATION AMONG GULF STATES

JN201015Y Manama GULF NEWS AGENCY in Arabic 0930 GMT 20 May 78 JN

[Text] Abu Dhabi, 20 May--Tariq 'Abd ar-Rahman al-Mu'ayyad, Bahraini minister of information, has stated that his country and the United Arab Emirates agree on the same political line and that the bases for information cooperation between the two countries are in fact available. In an interview published by the newspaper AL-WATHBAH here today, Al-Mu'ayyad stressed that security in the Gulf is the responsibility of the littoral countries and that coordination exists among all these countries. The Bahraini minister believes that economic integration among the Gulf countries should begin with joint projects, not with a unified Gulf currency. He stated that the more we stress projects of common interest at the beginning, the better their yield will be in the long run.

He went on to say that joint projects among the countries of the area are increasing and that trade and economic projects are meeting with success. He emphasized that the Gulf Bank is evidence of the success of the economic integration plan at this stage.

The Bahraini minister of information said that his country supports Sudanese President Ja'far Numayri's efforts to restore Arab solidarity. He stressed that the Gulf countries support all efforts to restore serenity to Arab relations.

On the economic benefits of the dry basin project in Bahrain, which began 3 months ago, the Bahraini minister said the success of the project in providing services to giant oil tankers proves that management in the Arab countries may be equal to that found in the largest industrial projects in other countries. He added that the experience of the past 3 months has proved a great success for this project. He also said that the project, in the long run, will develop the necessary technical skills for all the sons of the Gulf. This skilled labor force will then become the instrument of the expected economic and industrial development.

AMIR RETURNS FROM VISIT TO EUROPE

JN212000Y Manama GULF NEWS AGENCY in Arabic 1930 GMT 21 May 78 JN

[Excerpt] Manama, 21 May--His Highness Shaykh 'Isa ibn Salman Al Khalifah, amir of Bahrain, returned to Manama from London today at the conclusion of a 1-month visit to Europe.

KUWAIT

OIL MINISTER COMMENTS ON OIL PRICES, DEVELOPMENT PROJECTS

JN221048Y Manama GULF NFWS AGENCY in Arabic 0922 GMT 22 May 78 JN

[Text] Riyadh, 22 May--Kuwaiti Petroleum Minister Shaykh 'Ali Khalifah as-Sabah has affirmed that the main problem faced by the OPEC countries is the surplus of oil in the market. Once this problem is solved, he said, all other less important problems such as the drop in the value of the dollar, the increase in the prices of imports and the failure to rectify oil prices, will find a solution.

In a statement published in the Saudi paper AL-JAZIRAH today, the Kuwaiti minister said that Kuwait's losses from the drop in the value of the dollar amount to over $2 million daily.

He said adjustment of the oil prices will have to wait for the appropriate time to compensate the country for the losses resulting from the reduced purchasing power of the dollar, as the situation is connected with the existing market conditions and the political circumstances of the OPEC countries.

The Kuwaiti petroleum minister said that he agrees with Shaykh Ahmad Zaki Yamani, the Saudi minister of petroleum and mineral affairs, that the 80's will mark OPEC's golden age. What the OPEC countries have achieved so far, he added, will be nothing compared to what they will achieve in the coming decade in the way of better exploitation of petroleum for their own development.

Shaykh 'Ali Khalifah said that Kuwait and some of the OPEC countries are working along parallel lines to establish an oil refining industry, a petrochemical industry and a gas liquefaction industry. But in order to succeed, he added, these industries demand certain objective circumstances which the OPEC countries must try to achieve.

The Kuwaiti minister said that reports that Kuwait wants to establish oil installations or oil refineries outside the country or even outside the Arab states do not represent Kuwaiti policy. Kuwait participates only in those projects which could be financially profitable.

FRG, KUWAIT SIGN CONTRACT FOR SOLAR POWER PLANT

LD220636Y Hamburg DPA in German 1233 GMT 21 May 78 LD

[Text] Kuwait--The largest solar power station developed so far by German industry will be set up in the Arab oil state of Kuwait. The contract for the construction of the 100-kilowatt pilot plant was signed today during a visit by Federal Research and Technology Minister Volker Hauff to Kuwait by a representative of the German manufacturing firm Messerschmitt-Boelkow-Blohm/Munich and the Kuwaiti State Research Institute. Ninety percent of the project's costs of DM3.7 million in the test stage are being borne by Kuwait and 10 percent by the Germans, with a share from the Research and Technology Ministry budget.

Hauff called the project an example of the Federal Republic's scientific-technical co-operation with the oil states, because Kuwait is almost completely financing the plant and because it has been assured that the country will receive all technological information during the trial period.

In Kuwait, the first stop after Cairo in his 11-day Middle East trip, Hauff discussed with Kuwaiti Prime Minister Shaykh al-'Abdallah and Al-Ghanim, minister of electricity and water resources, possibilities for deepening German-Kuwaiti cooperation in the sphere of science and technology, in the fields of solar energy, water desalination and biotechnology.

Hauff stated today at an international press conference in Kuwait that the Federal Republic and Kuwait intend to conclude as soon as possible a government agreement as a framework for the intensification of scientific-technical cooperation. Tomorrow Hauff begins 4 days of talks in Riyadh with the Saudi Arabian Government.

QATAR

AMIR RECEIVES LETTER FROM KING OF MOROCCO

NC200948Y Doha QNA in Arabic 0830 GMT 20 May 78 NC

[Excerpts] Doha, 20 May--Amir of Qatar Shaykh Khalifah ibn Hamad Al Thani has received a letter from King Hassan II of Morocco.

The letter was delivered by King Hassan's adviser, Idris as-Salawi, who was received by the amir at his office in Ad-Dawhah Palace this morning. QNA has learned that the letter deals with the current Arab situation, the ongoing Arab efforts to marshal the Arab ranks and the fraternal relations between the two countries.

Moroccan Envoy Leaves

NC200949Y Doha QNA in Arabic 0855 GMT 20 May 78 NC

[Excerpt] Doha, 20 May--Idris as-Salawi, adviser to King Hassan II of Morocco, left Doha for Amman this morning on his way home.

SAUDI ARABIA

PRESS HAILS 'NEW ERA' IN ARAB-U.S. RELATIONS

LD200934Y Riyadh SNA in Arabic 0657 GMT 20 May 78 LD

[Excerpts] Jidda--AL-MADINAH in its comment today writes that the historic decision of the U.S. Senate approving the overall aircraft deal for the Middle East has come as a result of the quiet efforts exerted by the Kingdom and by Americans who are friends of the Arab world and are concerned for the continuing fruitful cooperation, which began to assume new dimensions some years ago. The paper went on to say that by its skillful management of relations with the free world and its genuine feeling for the common concern to confront the world's tyrannical powers--above all Zionism and communism--the Saudi leadership has inspired in America new convictions for the birth of a new era in Arab-U.S. relations.

AL-MADINAH stresses the important role played and being played by the Kingdom in strengthening and bolstering the dollar for the stability of the world economy, and says that these and other wise attitudes represented in Saudi backing for the American economy have been decisive in increasing the conviction of Americans of the value of positive Saudi friendship, which spreads good for humanity and world stability.

AN-NADWAH has called on the Arabs to make use of the existing climate in th United States following congressional approval of the aircraft deal for the Kingdom and Egypt to persuade the Americans to take a decisive stand on the cause of peace in the Middle East distinguished by justice and support for human rights. The paper says that right from the start the United States has called for a Palestinian homeland, and that it does not recognize any measures to annex Jerusalem. In addition, its opposition to the establishment of settlements in the occupied territories is well known. AN-NADWAH stresses that U.S. attitudes could contribute to a great degree toward the establishment of a just peace in the region and toward giving the Palestinians the right to legitimate self-determination.

INTERIOR MINISTER ASSESSES TALKS WITH OMANI COUNTERPART

LD211224Y Riyadh SNA in Arabic 1125 GMT 21 May 78 LD

[Excerpts] Riyadh, 21 May--Prince Nayif ibn 'Abd al-'Aziz, minister of the interior, said after his meeting with Muhammad ibn Ahmad ibn Sa'ud, Omani minister of the interior, that discussions covered all issues of interest to both countries. He asserted that the results of the talks will serve the interests of the Kingdom and Oman, God willing.

His highness said that the security of the Gulf is of concern to all officials of the area. But, he added, his discussions today with the Omani minister of the interior dealt with generalities. We are always in touch with Brother Muhammad ibn Ahmad ibn Sa'ud and other Gulf area ministers of the interior.

Replying to a question about his call for the establishment of an Arab INTERPOL, his highness said that the plan was presented by the Saudi delegation at the conference of Arab ministers of the interior in Cairo last year and is still under discussion. He expressed hope that an Arab INTERPOL would be set up to combat crime for the good of the Arab nation.

UAE

PRESIDENT DISCUSSES CHANCES FOR PEACE IN MIDDLE EAST

JN221840Y Abu Dhabi EMIRATES NEWS AGENCY in Arabic 1630 GMT 21 May 78 JN

[Interview granted on 20 May by UAE President Shaykh Zayid ibn Sultan Al Nuhayyan to the Chicago TRIBUNE on Sayr Bani Yas Island]

[Excerpt] Question: Regarding As-Sadat's peace initiative: We know that he did not consult his Arab brethren when he made this initiative. Neverless, do you support this initiative? How do you see future developments?

Answer: It is true that President Anwar as-Sadat did not consult his Arab brethren in advance when he made his initiative. However, like any head of state or leader who cares for the interests of his people and nation, and who sometimes takes initiatives believing that they will serve these interests, President as-Sadat made his initiative out of a belief that it would be in the interests of the Arab nation. This is what he believed. However, the enemy repulsed this initiative aggressively and ferociously. Although nothing has resulted from it so far, nothing is likely to be achieved.

Question: Are you, therefore, pessimistic about the possibility of establishing peace in the Middle East?

Answer: How can I not be pessimistic since the primary cause of the war is Israel and its aggressive and expansionist policy? Has Israel stopped its expansion? It has not stopped this aggression and expansion. How can the situation in the Middle East calm down as long as the enemy persists in his aggression and expansion? How can somebody with rights concede his rights, particularly when this right is that of the homeland?

Question: When we broached this question, you said that Israel is the only party which wants war in the Middle East, and that the Arabs do not have such a desire. Do you think there is another quarter which might want war to erupt in the Middle East?

Answer: I believe that Israel is the sole state in the area which wants war to break out in the Middle East. Israel's recent aggression against southern Lebanon and its occupation of parts of it is evidence of this. Despite this new aggression, the Arab states did not resort to war. Even Syria, which considers Lebanon its outlet, did not resort to war. Neither did Iraq or the other Arab states. All this shows that Israel is the only party which wants the conflagration of wars and (?initiates) them.

Question: When we posed this same question to President as-Sadat and Prince Fahd they also expressed apprehension about Soviet influence in the region, since, according to them, the Soviets have designs in this area and might become a factor for a new war in the area. Do you share this view?

Answer: Generally speaking, any quarter which believes that instability in the Middle East serves its interests will seek to realize these interests by creating problems in the area. Furthermore, if we say, for instance, that the Soviets wish to create tension and instability in the area, we should search for the reasons which prompt them to do so. Like any other state, the Soviet Union puts its interests first. For instance, supposing the Soviets think that the Arab states are building their relations and friendship primarily with the Western countries. This might prompt them to try to create tension in order to have an outlet so as to insure their interests, just like any other big power which resorts to any means to realize its interests.

If we as Arabs come to realize that the Soviets are determined to light the fire and create tension and problems, and if this is realized by the West as well, then we should cooperate to cut them off. We should also cut off anybody who attempts to kindle fire in the area. Otherwise, world prosperity, stability and security will be endangered.

PETROLEUM MINISTER, U.S. AMBASSADOR DISCUSS ENERGY

JN201527Y Manama GULF NEWS AGENCY in Arabic 1430 GMT 20 May 78 JN

[Text] Abu Dhabi, 20 May--Dr Mani' ibn Sa'id al-'Utaybah, UAE minister of petroleum and natural resources, met with the U.S. ambassador to the UAE this morning. During the meeting, a review was made of topics related to energy and bilateral cooperation in the sphere of petroleum.

SUDANESE ENERGY MINISTER LEAVES ABU DHABI

JN221842Y Abu Dhabi EMIRATES NEWS AGENCY in Arabic 1640 GMT 22 May 78 JN

[Text] Abu Dhabi, 22 May--Sudanese Minister of Energy and Mining Ma'mun 'Awad Abu Zayd left Abu Dhabi for home this afternoon at the end of an official visit to the UAE which lasted several days. Prior to his departure, Abu Zayd told the EMIRATES NEWS AGENCY that his visit was fruitful and achieved its objectives. He said the visit was related to several matters of joint interest to the two countries.

Abu Zayd said that he reviewed with officials of the Foreign Ministry Sudanese President Ja'far Muhammad Numayri's efforts in his capacity as chairman of the Arab Solidarity Committee to cleanse the Arab atmosphere and restore Arab solidarity in this critical phase through which the Arab nation is passing.

Concluding his statement, Abu Zayd praised the relations between the UAE and Sudan. He said that the two countries are establishing several joint economic projects which will be of benefit to the peoples of the two countries. He also lauded the UAE's participation in several development projects in Sudan. He said that the Sudanese people greatly appreciate this role and greatly appreciate the UAE people.

PDRY

SOVIET NAVAL CHIEF VISITS AL MUKALLA

LD211730Y Aden Domestic Service in Arabic 1230 GMT 21 May 78 LD/EA

[Excerpts] Comrade Adm Sergey Gorshkov, member of the CPSU Central Committee, deputy defense minister and admiral of the Soviet naval fleet, and his delegation this morning visited the town of Al Mukalla, the second town of the republic, accompanied by Brother Husayn Ahmad Amjad, commander of the naval forces and head of the guard of honor.

During the visit, Comrade Gorshkov expressed his great satisfaction with the development he saw in the Fifth Governorate, particularly in the field of agriculture. He praised the efforts of the United Political Organization-National Front and the government of the revolution to develop the governorate in the economic, agricultural, industrial and fisheries fields.

Before returning to Aden, the First Governorate, Comrade Gorshkov was presented with a symbolic present of a 70-year-old carved minaret from Tarim, the northern province of the Fifth Governorate, by the brother commander of the Mukalla garrison.

Meets UPONF Secretary General

LD230832Y Aden Domestic Service in Arabic 1230 GMT 22 May 78 LD/EA

[Text] Brother 'Abd al-Fattah Isma'il, secretary general of the Central Committee of the United Political Organization-National Front [UPONF] received in his office this morning Comrade Sergey Gorshkov, CPSU Central Committee member, deputy defense minister and admiral of the Soviet fleet, and his delegation. The meeting was attended by Brother Lt Col 'Ali Ahmad Nasir 'Antar, Central Committee member and defense minister, and the charge d'affaires of the Soviet Embassy in Aden. Friendly bilateral relations and ways of expanding them were discussed at the meeting.

During the meeting the Soviet admiral greeted the brother members of the UPONF Central Committee and Politburo on behalf of the CPSU Politburo, and the brother secretary general asked the Soviet admiral to convey to the comrade members of the CPSU Politburo and Central Committee the greetings of the UPONF Central Committee and Politburo.

Leaves Aden

JN222019Y Manama GULF NEWS AGENCY in Arabic 1955 GMT 22 May 78 JN

[Text] Aden, 22 May--Sergey Gorshkov, Soviet deputy defense minister and admiral of the Soviet naval fleet, and the delegation accompanying him left Aden this evening following a visit of several days to the PDRY. During the visit, Gorshkov held talks with Yemeni officials dealing with bilateral relations and ways to strengthen these relations in various fields.

DEFENSE MINISTER LEAVES FOR VISIT TO USSR

JN222018Y Manama GULF NEWS AGENCY in Arabic 1950 GMT 22 May 78 JN

[Text] Aden, 22 May--Lt Col Ahmad Nasir 'Antar, PDRY minister of defense, left for Moscow this evening on a visit to the Soviet Union at the invitation of the Soviet defense minister. During the visit, which will last several days, the Yemeni minister will discuss relations between the two countries in the military field.

DPRK VICE PRESIDENT MAKES BRIEF VISIT TO ADEN

JN200942Y Baghdad INA in Arabic 0930 GMT 20 May 78 JN

[Text] Aden, 20 May--DPRK Vice President Kang Yang-uk left Aden today following a short visit to the PDRY. The DPRK vice president held talks with senior PDRY officials on strengthening relations between the two countries. It will be recalled that 'Ali Nasir Muhammad visited the DPRK at the head of an official delegation at the end of April.

INTERIOR MINISTER ANNOUNCES REFERENDUM RESULTS

NC221056 [Editorial report NC] Cairo Domestic Service in Arabic at 1032 GMT on 22 May links up with Cairo Voice of the Arabs to relay an apparently recorded 8-minute statement by Interior Minister Maj Gen Nabawi Isma'il on the results of the 21 May Egyptian referendum on the six principles on protecting the domestic front and social peace.

The interior minister says that the number of eligible voters was 10,982,223 and 9,385,024 persons voted in the referendum. The number of valid votes cast was 9,362,131, and the number of invalid votes was 22,893. A total of 9,202,553 persons voted in favor of the principles and 159,578 persons against them.

In other words 85.4 percent of the eligible voters participated in the referendum, and 98.92 percent of the valid votes cast were in favor of the principles.

Prime Minister Comments

NC221955Y Cairo MENA in Arabic 1810 GMT 22 May 78 NC

[Excerpts] Cairo, 22 May--Prime Minister Mamduh Salim has affirmed that the Egyptian people, who went to the polls yesterday to express their opinions on the principles for safeguarding the internal front and social peace in Egypt, were motivated by their faith in their national duty to correct the course and determine their future under democracy and the freedoms they have gained after long struggle.

In an interview on Egyptian television broadcast tonight, the prime minister said that the people expressed themselves yesterday in order to purge the ranks of those who want to exploit democracy and change the national and nationalist political course, thus affecting the achievements the 23 July and 15 May revolutions have made for the people.

Mamduh Salim stressed that the results of the referendum will not affect sound democratic practice and the establishment of new parties. He pointed out that the referendum was held in order to correct the course and to insure that the parties or some elements will not deviate from the commitment to national unity, social peace, and socialist democracy, and so that these deviations will not affect the people's gains.

Mamduh Salim said that democracy in Egypt is not the democracy of party conflict. It is impossible to allow those who corrupted political life previously to do so today. He stressed that the referendum will not impose restrictions on democracy.

AUTHORITIES ARREST EIGHT LEFTIST PARTY MEMBERS

NC220932Y Doha QNA in Arabic 0850 GMT 22 May 78 NC

[Text] Cairo, 22 May--The Egyptian security authorities have arrested eight members of the National Unionist Progressive Party in the Al-Gharbiyah Governorate, who were distributing leaflets calling for boycotting the referendum which took place yesterday and inciting hatred against the regime. This is reported by the Egyptian newspaper AL-AKHBAR today. The newspaper also says that the public prosecutor has decided to release Muhammad Isma'il 'Amir on bail. 'Amir, who is the secretary of Khalid Muhyi ad-Din, leader of the National Unionist Progressive Party, was arrested recently while he was distributing leaflets attacking the Egyptian regime. The Egyptian authorities have also seized the latest issue of AL-AHALI, the weekly organ of the party, which is issued every Wednesday.

AL-AHRAM EXPECTS PURGES WITHIN RULING PARTY

NC220900Y Doha QNA in Arabic 0833 GMT 22 May 78 NC

[Text] Cairo, 22 May--The newspaper AL-AHRAM, organ of the opposition Liberal Socialist Party, says today that there will be purges within the ruling Arab Socialist Party of Egypt in the next few weeks. The newspaper says that many leaders of the party, who had links with the centers of power in the vanguard organization before the May 1971 revolution, will be expelled.

The newspaper also says that President as-Sadat will soon make public a list of the lackeys of the centers of powers and organizations who corrupted the political and democratic life in Egypt before the July 1952 revolution. Several of these lackeys hold important posts at present. The newspaper adds that Vice President Husni Mubarak is currently preparing a list of these persons.

ISRAELI JOURNALISTS TO ARRIVE IN CAIRO 22 MAY

NC210917Y Doha QNA in Arabic 0850 GMT 21 May 78 NC

[Text] Cairo, 21 May--Ten Israeli journalists, all prominent members of the "Peace Now" Movement, will arrive in Cairo tomorrow. The movement is opposed to Israeli Prime Minister Menahem Begin's hardline policy on peace in the Middle East.

In today's edition the Egyptian magazine OCTOBER reports that the Israeli delegation will include the chief editor and some editors of the Israeli NEW OUTLOOK magazine, as well as professors from the Hebrew and Tel Aviv universities.

The Egyptian authorities have given permission to these journalists to enter Cairo in accordance with a request they submitted to the Egyptian information authority.

In their request the journalists say that "the Israeli people are falling under the influence of misleading propaganda by the ruling machinery in Israel and that they want to get to know the facts from the Egyptian side, whom they have begun to trust."

AKHBAR AL-YAWM: DEMOCRACY WILL CONTINUE IN EGYPT

LD221715Y Cairo AKHBAR AL-YAWM in Arabic 19 May 78 p 8 LD

[Mustafa Amin article: "Yes to Democracy"]

[Excerpts] Yes to democracy, no to dictatorship; yes to the people's rule, no to autocratic rule; yes to rule of law, no to rule of the whip; and yes to the state of light, no to the state of darkness.

Yes to social peace, no to the domination of one class over another; yes to belief, no to fanaticism and atheism; yes to the open society, no to the closed society; yes to freedom of thought, no to freedom of sabotage, destruction and plundering; yes to progress, no to retreating backwards; yes to socialist democracy, no to socialism of prisons and jails; and yes to the exchange of ideas, no to the exchange of interests.

The people have elected As-Sadat twice on a clear basis of freedom, democracy and the rule of law. As-Sadat carried these three torches and all the people walked behind him except a handful of people who had carried whips, were tools of torture and belonged to the school of terror. Every Egyptian has found in As-Sadat the savior who removed the gag in his mouth, smashed his shackles and chains, and brought him out of the big jail.

As-Sadat has realized that the defeat, bankruptcy and hardships from which this people suffered were due to dictatorship and dominating the destiny of the people. Therefore, As-Sadat will never take the country back to the hell in which it lived before or deprive it from the freedom it has tasted and enjoyed after long deprivation.

We will never go back to the past, to the era of before the 23 July Revolution. We will not go back to the era of before the 15 May Revolution. Some of us were wrong in thinking that mistakes of the past were something to be proud of and therefore tried to defend them instead of looking ahead to the future.

It has been my opinion that the communists must have a party and a newspaper of their own, because this way we would cut them down to size. But what happened is that when it was decided to establish a leftist party its leadership was entrusted to the communists. The communists were not satisfied with having a party of their own for the first time in Egypt's history but included the Nasirites in their ranks. The only aim of these people is to abort the democratic experiment because democracy exposes the dictatorship they are advocating; every victory for democracy is a defeat for them and every banner raised for freedom is a shroud for them. The communists sought to embrace the Nasirites and therefore supported their defense of torture, the case of Kamshish [uprising] and the crimes of tyranny and despotism. The communists were inconsistent as they defended democracy and dictatorship at the same time and were demanding freedom and simultaneously applauding the use of shackles and chains.

The communists committed a grave error when they defended the Soviet Union every time it attacked Egypt. In their opinion it was not the Soviet Union but Egypt that was wrong when the Soviets withheld spare parts supplies to Egypt. The Soviet Union was not wrong when it brought economic pressure on Egypt and refused to reschedule the debts; it was Egypt that was wrong. The Soviet Union was not wrong when it stirred up the incidents of 18 and 19 January. To them this was a popular uprising.

When the rejectionist states declared a war of abuse and unjust accusations against us, Egypt was surprised to be attacked by these states through Egyptian communists and Egyptian communist writers.

There is not a single noncommunist Egyptian in Iraq, Syria, Libya or Yemen who is attacking Egypt. They all are Egyptian communists; they are the ones who are distorting Egypt's image, stabbing us in the back, instigating the Arabs against us and writing lies against us in Arab newspapers.

Unfortunately, the Leftist Party did not denounce such disgraceful stands but considered them a national struggle worthy of admiration.

Some of these communists wanted to take a short cut and imagined that by fostering unrest among the people an explosion would occur and that the explosion would lead to a revolution; they imagined that if a Red revolution succeeded then they would come to power, and if it failed a dictatorship would be installed and hanging and terror would spread. Such an atmosphere would benefit and not harm communism.

The Egyptian communists will be disappointed when they realize that there will be no abandoning of democracy and going back to dictatorship, to detention camps and to oppression and coercion. Nor will opposition be abolished, freedom of the press suppressed, nor the state of darkness restored.

In the recent past the Egyptian communists concentrated their efforts on convincing Anwar as-Sadat that democracy would not work in Egypt. There is no doubt that it is not in the interest of the Soviet Union that democracy should succeed in Egypt because its success here means that its fever would spread to many of the Arab and Third World countries. Moscow is aware that it can control a country ruled by an individual but cannot control a country ruled by the people. Under the aegis of dictatorship Moscow has been able to spread its influence and to interfere in the domestic affairs of such countries. Had Cuba, for example, been a democratic country, its parliament would not have accepted sending troops to fight in Angola, Ethiopia and Eritrea. It will, of course, send them to Afghanistan in order to protect communism there. It has also been said that it will send its troops to Lebanon in order to prevent the restoration of peace there and to hinder the withdrawal of Israeli forces so that the UN forces' mission will fail.

Is there anything more degrading than a country becoming a state of mercenary soldiers fighting in countries they do not know and killing peoples who are not their enemies or adversaries? This is what makes the Soviet Union welcome the establishment of any dictatorship and wish the failure of any democratic rule.

But democracy in Egypt did not and will not fail. Democracy will remain, freedom will remain and the rule of law will remain. The day of freedom will remain and the night of tyranny will, God willing, never come back.

FOREIGN MINISTER TO PAY VISIT TO SAUDI ARABIA

NC221313Y Cairo Domestic Service in Arabic 1230 GMT 22 May 78 NC

[Text] Foreign Minister Muhammad Ibrahim Kamil will leave Cairo for Jidda on Wednesday on an official visit to Saudi Arabia that will last until Friday.

Foreign Minister Kamil will hold important talks with Saudi Foreign Minister Prince Sa'ud al-Faysal. The talks will center on the situation in the Middle East and on coordinating the stands of Saudi Arabia and Egypt on the contacts and efforts currently undertaken to establish peace based on justice in the Middle East. The talks will also deal with current Arab issues.

AL-JUMHURIYAH SCORES NEW POLISH TREND TOWARD ISRAEL

JN230842Y Baghdad INA in Arabic 0730 GMT 23 May 78 JN

[Excerpts] Baghdad, 23 May--In an article today the newspaper AL-JUMHURIYAH expresses its anxiety over "the serious change in the Polish Government's policy toward the racist Zionist entity." The paper says that the Polish Government has submitted to the West's information campaign which accuses the Polish people of participating with the Nazis in extermination the Jews.

AL-JUMHURIYAH emphasizes that there were several ways to answer and refute the campaign and to face the pressure exerted by U.S. imperialist circles which have exploited the economic factor and pushed the Polish Government toward a course basically contrary to the liberation role which the Polish People's Republic is supposed to play. The paper points to the role played by Carter during his visit to Poland where he raised the issue of rehabilitation of the Polish Jews when he discussed Poland's needs for U.S. grain and loans.

AL-JUMHURIYAH says that the Polish Government should have responded to the pressure with a continued principled stand and firm measures to put an end to imperialist-Zionist subversion. The paper asserts that the Polish Government's submission to this pressure constitutes a deviation from the line of friendship linking the Polish people with the Arab nation. It says that Poland's drift in this direction is raising legitimate anxiety among the Arab masses. Perhaps this will prompt these masses to wonder if this event is the beginning of a series of similar events. AL-JUMHURIYAH stresses the need for the Polish Government to realize the gravity and dimensions of submitting to imperialist and Zionist pressure. It says that the international situation was also affected by the so-called human rights campaign which the United States launched. Zionist elements responded favorably to this campaign, thus creating tangible internal difficulties for Poland.

AL-JUMHURIYAH says that the change in Poland's position comes at a time when Zionism is being universally condemned as a racist and fascist movement and when solidarity with the Arab people in their just national struggle against Zionism and imperialism, and for liberating their land and regaining all their legitimate historical rights, is increasing.

SOVIET DEPUTY DEFENSE MINISTER STOPS AT BAGHDAD AIRPORT

JN230940Y Baghdad INA in Arabic 0900 GMT 23 May 78 JN

[Text] Baghdad, 23 May--Sergey Gorshkov, Soviet deputy defense minister, admiral of the Soviet naval fleet and CPSU Central Committee member; and PDRY Defense Minister Lt Col 'Ali Nasir spent 90 minutes this morning at Baghdad International Airport en route to Moscow from Aden.

Admiral Gorshkov paid an official visit to the PDRY during which he discussed cooperation between the two countries in all fields.

BA'TH PARTY OFFICIAL MEETS LEBANESE SPORTS DELEGATION

JN221357Y Baghdad INA in Arabic 1320 GMT 22 May 78 JN

[Text] Baghdad, 22 May--Na'im Haddad, member of the Regional Command of the Arab Socialist Ba'th Party, met here today with the Lebanese sports delegation which tonight will conclude a week-long visit to Iraq.

During the meeting, Haddad reaffirmed Iraq's preparedness to support the Lebanese nationalist movement and the world liberation movements for the sake of achieving the aspirations and just goals of the masses. He said: We here in Iraq are building a revolutionary base to serve as a pan-Arab center for the Arab revolutionary movement in its struggle against imperialism and its supporters in the area. Haddad briefed the delegation on the developments and transformations which Iraq witnessed and the gains and achievements it has accomplished. He also briefed the delegation on Iraq's stance in support of the Arab struggle and the struggling world peoples.

Haddad hailed the heroic struggle being waged by the Lebanese nationalist movement in its role as an element of the Arab revolutionary movement.

Ramiz Wahhab, president of the As-Safat Athletic Club, lauded the position of the Arab Socialist Ba'th Party and its constant support of the Lebanese nationalist movement. He affirmed the movement's insistence on continuing the struggle to remove the influence of imperialism and eliminate Arab reaction.

IRAQ, ARGENTINA BEGIN TALKS IN BAGHDAD

JN2214007 Baghdad INA in Arabic 1330 GMT 22 May 78 JN

[Text] Baghdad, 22 May--Talks between Iraq and Argentina began here today. The purpose of the talks is to develop cooperation between the two countries in the field of transport. The Iraqi side was headed by the transport minister, Dr Mukarram Jamal, and the Argentine side was headed by the Argentine secretary of maritime interests, Carlos Alberto Guevara.

The two sides discussed the prospects for and means of expanding cooperation in the field of maritime transport and the establishment of a maritime line between the two countries. They also examined the possibility of exchanging expertise in the maintenance and improvement of river navigation. It was decided to form a joint committee to study the possibility of cooperation in the utilization of equipment for the elimination of river debris and for river cleaning.

INA, GNA DIRECTORS DISCUSS COOPERATION

JN2311447 Baghdad INA in Arabic 1050 GMT 23 May 78 JN

[Text] Baghdad, 23 May--INA Director General Muhammad Manaf al-Yasin met here this morning with Nabil al-Hamar, assistant director general of the GULF NEWS AGENCY [GNA]. During the meeting, which was attended by INA Assistant Director General Ma'adh 'Abd ar-Rahim, they discussed means of cooperation between INA and GNA.

During the meeting, Al-Hamar reviewed in detail the progress of GNA work and its future projects.

Al-Yasin stressed INA's support for GNA in all press and technical fields, particularly concerning transmitting reports to GNA regularly and constantly so as to achieve the best possible cooperation between the two agencies in the interests of the countries of the area.

Al-Hamar arrived in Baghdad yesterday on a 2-day visit to Iraq as part of a tour of the GNA founder countries.

FOREIGN MINISTER BUTRUS LEAVES FOR DAMASCUS

NC220711Y Beirut Domestic Service in Arabic 0530 GMT 22 May 78 NC

[Text] Deputy Prime Minister and Foreign and Defense Minister Fu'ad Butrus left Beirut at 0900 today for Damascus for talks with high-ranking Syrian officials on the current situation in Lebanon and recent developments in the region.

Returns to Beirut

NC221730Y Beirut Domestic Service in Arabic 1630 GMT 22 May 78 NC

[Text] The deputy prime minister and minister of foreign affairs, Fu'ad Butrus, returned to Beirut at 1930, following his 1-day official visit to Damascus. He immediately went to the presidential palace, where he conveyed an oral message from Syrian President Hafiz al-Asad to President Sarkis.

PRESIDENT SARKIS TO VISIT SYRIA NEXT WEEK

NC230700Y Beirut Domestic Service in Arabic 0600 GMT 23 May 78 NC

[Excerpt] Following his return from a visit to Damascus yesterday evening, Minister of Foreign Affairs and Defense Fu'ad Butrus announced that His Excellency President Ilyas Sarkis will visit the Syrian capital next week to meet with President Hafiz al-Asad.

SYRIA REPORTEDLY HAS SENT MORE TROOPS TO LEBANON

NC221020Y Doha QNA in Arabic 0910 GMT 22 May 78 NC

[Text] Kuwait, 22 May--A Kuwaiti newspaper reports today that the number of the Syrian forces operating in Lebanon is now well over 30,000 men after 10,000 Syrian soldiers entered the country recently in accordance with decisions adopted by Joint Lebanese-Syrian armies coordination committees.

In a dispatch from Beirut citing Lebanese front sources, the newspaper AL-ANBA' says that the forces recently sent to Lebanon are from the backbone of the Syrian Army and are trained in street fighting.

The entry of these forces into Lebanon was discussed at the meeting which the unified command of the Lebanese front forces held on Wednesday, prior to the departure of the commander of these forces, Bashir al-Jumayyil, for the United States.

The newspaper notes that the new Syrian forces will play a major role in the preparations now underway to strengthen internal security in Lebanon, particularly if a decision is reached to disarm the various combatant parties.

SALIM AL-HUSS MAKES STATEMENT ON CAIRO AGREEMENT

NC221425Y Beirut Domestic Service in Arabic 1030 GMT 22 May 78 NC

[Excerpts] Prime Minister Salim al-Huss made a statement to the newspaper AS-SAFIR today. He emphasized that the Cairo agreement cannot be tackled if its roots and its concomitant Arab dimensions are disregarded. He stressed that priority must be given to ending the Israeli occupation.

The prime minister said: We do not intend to enter into a Byzantine legal argument concerning the Cairo agreement and its fate. I do not believe that it is useful to tackle the Cairo agreement now, while disregarding its Arab roots and dimensions.

Prime Minister al-Huss went on: The Cairo agreement was concluded to regulate the armed Palestinian presence in Lebanon. This presence is a fact which cannot be disregarded. There is no alternative to the adoption of a practical regulation for this presence. I do not believe it is practical to cancel the regulation governing its presence without replacing it by another regulation. This is our belief. He added: We are seeking a common understanding with the PLO on the armed Palestinian presence in Lebanon. We are seeking this understanding in cooperation with the fraternal Arab countries, foremost of which is fraternal Syria. I mention Syria in particular because of its outstanding relations with both Lebanon and the PLO.

The prime minister further said: In our handling of the Palestinian armed presence, it is our wish to achieve positive and concrete results and not just to adopt a position which we can announce, particularly if this position is liable to impede rather than facilitate the attainment of practical and useful solutions for an existing problem. This problem has Arab dimensions, as I have already said, that cannot be disregarded if we want to tackle the problem in a practical manner to attain positive and tangible results.

The prime minister added: We are now giving top priority to the question of insuring the total withdrawal of the Israeli occupier from the south. We believe that the way to realize this is to insure a speedy implementation of Security Council Resolutions 425 and 426. This requires us to facilitate the deployment of the UN forces in the areas which they take over from the Israelis preparatory to handing them over to the legitimate authority and restoring Lebanon's sovereignty over them. Hence, the prime minister said, we appeal to all parties concerned to facilitate the task of the UN forces and not to obstruct them and to refrain from any armed moves in the areas to be taken over by the UN forces from the Israelis, irrespective of the source of such moves, be it from the left or the right, the Palestinians or the Lebanese. The only exception to this, which we make at this stage, is the Internal Security Forces. The authorities intend to strengthen the presence of these forces to the maximum to support the UN forces and pave the way for the restoration of full Lebanese sovereignty over the area.

PALESTINIANS, LEBANESE TO BEGIN CONTACTS 24 MAY

JN230850Y Baghdad INA in Arabic 0740 GMT 23 May 78 JN

[Text] Beirut, 23 May--The Palestine Central Council ad hoc committee will begin contacts tomorrow with the Lebanese Government to discuss the developments in southern Lebanon and the means to organize Lebanese-Palestinian relations. The committee entrusted with holding the contacts will be chaired by Yasir 'Arafat, chairman of the PLO Executive Committee.

The committee is scheduled to begin its contacts with Lebanese Prime Minister Dr Salim al-Huss.

BASHIR AL-JUMAYYIL DOUBTS SUCCESS OF UNIFIL

LD181555Y Paris L'AURORE in French 17 May 78 p 5 LD

[First part of undated Charles Aste Beirut dispatch: "France Not Appreciated"]

[Excerpt] While moderate Moslem circles welcomed the resolution [UN Resolution 425] with satisfaction, the same does not go for the Christians, who do not conceal their fears, "Because, being incomplete, it runs counter to Lebanon's interests," I was told by Mr Bashir al-Jumayyil. The young commander of the united conservative forces does not mince his words. "I believe," he stressed, "that Lebanon's ambassador to the United Nations is, like the entire Lebanese State, under the influence of the Palestinians. That is why this resolution, perhaps with the Americans' blessing, was beaten from the start. It demanded the withdrawl of the Israelis (which Washington obtained) but avoided mentioning the reasons for Israeli intervention, which was due to Palestinian anarchy on Lebanese territory which has gradually become an organized presence--organized politically, militarily, administratively, economically and so forth."

"The mission of the UN Interim Force in Lebanon," Mr Bashir al-Jumayyil continued, "will be very difficult, and I doubt whether it will be able ultimately to attain its goal. Indeed, for the first time in its history the United Nations has been obliged to face terrorist gangs and not legal entities, gangs which, moreover, have stated their opposition to the UN Interim Force in Lebanon. The restoration of order and security in Lebanon can only be effected by the Lebanese Army. Unfortunately while we have 17 different armies on our soil, one is missing--the Lebanese Army...."

And if the UN Interim Force in Lebanon fails? "So far recourse to the United Nations has been the last card to save the situation. This card has been played. If it were to lead to failure the consequences would be incalculable and southern Lebanon would remain the powder-keg of the entire region."

FOREIGN MINISTRY DENOUNCES ORLY AIRPORT ATTACK

NC221743Y Beirut Domestic Service in Arabic 1630 GMT 22 May 78 NC

[Text] An official spokesman of the Lebanese Foreign Ministry expressed the ministry's regret over the incident that took place the day beofre yesterday at Orly Airport in France. The incident was committed by three armed men who claimed that they belong to an organization calling itself "the Sons of Southern Lebanon." The spokesman added that the Foreign Ministry, on behalf of Lebanon, vehemently denounces this hostile act directed at the security of a friendly country, France. The Foreign Ministry believes that first and foremost this act was intended to harm Lebanon and its security at a time when France is participating with UNIFIL in southern Lebanon in helping the Lebanese authorities exercise their full powers in that region.

LEBANESE AMONG GUNMEN KILLED AT ORLY AIRPORT

NC221025Y Cairo MENA in Arabic GMT 22 May 78 NC

[Excerpts] Beirut, 22 May--It was learned today that a Lebanese national, Mahmud 'Awadah, was among the armed group that carried out the Orly Airport operation on Saturday. The Lebanese youth was 25 years old and was born in the village of Ash-Sharqiyah in southern Lebanon. His family now lives in the Ra's an-Nab' quarter in Beirut.

AL-BA'TH ATTACKS AS-SADAT'S REFERENDUM

LD221125Y Damascus AL-BA'TH in Arabic 16 May 78 p 3 LD

[George 'Ayn Malak article: "From McCarthy to As-Sadat"]

[Text] In the 1950's a U.S. senator named Joseph McCarthy began an attack on the progressive movement in the United States. The campaign, which was led by U.S. ultranationalists, affected the lives of thousands of American citizens who were either dismissed from their jobs or forced to change the pattern of their life under the pressure of the "McCarthyite" investigation commissions. But McCarthyism soon faded out and lost its ability to continue, not because the United States, the world's No. 1 imperialist state, had turned into a democratic state but because even the leaders of the U.S. regime could not stomach this kind of campaign which took their country back to the era of the 14th-century courts of Inquisition.

Toward the end of the 1970's and 20 years after the emergence of the biggest national democratic revolution in the Arab homeland--the 23 July Revolution--representatives of the new McCarthyite thought assumed power in Cairo. On 14 March 1971 President Anwar as-Sadat's government machinery launched a new "inquisition" campaign in Egypt and it is still conducting it to this very day.

As-Sadat's organs tried to separate Egypt from its history and its national role; they dispersed most of the nationalist and progressive elements in Egypt under the pretext of correcting the course of the 23 July Revolution, and those who represent reactionary and provincial thinking have been brought back to office. As-Sadat also waged a campaign to strike at the Egyptian national progressive movement on two fronts--the economic front and the social front--until eventually he was able to adopt an entirely reactionary political line that took Egypt back to the Dark Ages, realined it with the imperialist-reactionary axis in the area, and opened the lines to the "new friends" in the Zionist entity.

Yesterday As-Sadat declared a series of political steps that will complete his reactionary-rightist line in his attempt to complete the destruction of the 23 July Revolution which he began on 14 May 1971.

The main political significance of the subject put to referendum this week as designated by As-Sadat's presidential office is that the U.S. Senator McCarthy has found a successor who has been able to "adapt" the ideas of the 1950's so that--as the Egyptian papers put it--they agree with the image of As-Sadat's Egypt of the 1980's.

As-Sadat's courts of inquisition completed the reactionary setback which began in Egypt on 14 May 1971; it also completes forging the surrender line in the Arab area as Washington desires it. Although the U.S. reaction to this action is not yet fully known, there is no doubt that the U.S. administration is quite "pleased" with the fact that the man who represents it in Cairo knows his job well, beginning with his meeting with his Israeli friends and ending with fighting the progressive nationalist movement in Egypt and in the area. This U.S. "pleasure" is even greater because what is happening coincides with the U.S.-Israeli celebrations of the establishment of the Zionist state in Palestine. Thus the imperialist "achievements" will have been largely accomplished--the total usurpation of the Palestinian territory and striking at the Arab national liberation movement in the largest Arab country. So let Senator McCarthy be happy in his grave.

NPUG ISSUES STATEMENT DENOUNCING EGYPTIAN REFERENDUM

JN222047Y Damascus Domestic Service in Arabic 1915 GMT 22 May 78 JN

[Text] The National Progressive Unionist Grouping [NPUG] Party has renewed its defiance of As-Sadat's terroristic regime. It issued a statement this afternoon strongly denouncing the farcical referendum and its counterfeit results. The party cautioned against the grave consequences of the practices of As-Sadat's terroristic regime and declared that the law, the constitution and freedom in Arab Egypt are in danger.

TISHRIN: NEW U.S. EFFORTS FOR MIDEAST SETTLEMENT

JN231135Y Damascus Domestic Service in Arabic 0400 GMT 22 May 78 JN

[From the press review]

[Text] Commenting in its "Behind the News" column on the new U.S. efforts for a settlement in the Middle East, the newspaper TISHRIN says: The State Department has revealed some of the contents of the letters President Carter sent As-Sadat and Begin following the vote on the tripartite plane deal. The U.S. administration stated in these letters its intention to proceed forcefully toward achieving a political settlement through negotiation, and to concentrate all efforts toward this goal. It has been noticed that the State Department is using strong language this time. This language does not reflect the attitude of a neutral mediator but the stance of one who is trying to direct events in a certain way, even resorting to coercion.

When the United States talks about a comprehensive settlement, it uses diplomatic language which is often directed at all those opposing the As-Sadat settlement conspiracy. The U.S. assertion that the settlement will be through direct negotiation and that it is intensifying efforts to achieve this goal means, in practice, that the Carter administration wants a quick payment for the planes deal, obtaining new concessions to pave the way for a unilateral U.S. role in the area and to face the Arabs with only one choice for solving the conflict, namely the defeatist line of As-Sadat, who negotiated with Israel and made a series of political, geographical and national concessions. These include recognizing the Israeli entity, accepting border adjustments and, finally, participating in the elimination of the Palestine question by saying that the Begin proposals concerning the West Bank and Gaza contain some serious ideas. As-Sadat is ready to conclude a bilateral agreement with Israel once he is certain that this agreement will help maintain peace in the area.

LEBANESE FOREIGN MINISTER RECEIVED BY KHADDAM

JN220850Y Damascus SANA in Arabic 0840 GMT 22 May 78 JN

[Text] Damascus, 22 May--Deputy Prime Minister and Foreign Minister 'Abd al-Halim Khaddam received in his office at 1000 today Fu'ad Butrus, Lebanese deputy prime minister and foreign minister. Butrus arrived in Damascus this morning on a 1-day visit to Syria. He was received at the Syrian-Lebanese border by Muwaffaq al-Qudsi, director of protocol at the Foreign Ministry.

Conveys Message to Al-Asad

JN221647Y Damascus Domestic Service in Arabic 1615 GMT 22 May 78 JN

[Text] President Hafiz al-Asad received Fu'ad Butrus, Lebanese deputy prime minister and minister of foreign affairs and defense at 1330 today. The meeting was attended by 'Abd al-Halim Khaddam, deputy prime minister and minister of foreign affairs.

Fu'ad Butrus conveyed a message to the president from President Ilyas Sarkis. The discussion during the meeting dealt with the general situation in the Arab area, the situation in Lebanon, particularly in the south, and relations between the two fraternal countries.

Fu'ad Butrus left Damascus for Beirut this afternoon following a 1-day visit. He was seen off at the Syrian-Lebanese border point by Muwaffaq al-Qudsi, director of protocol at the Foreign Ministry.

SYRIAN, LEBANESE FOREIGN MINISTERS COMMENT ON TALKS

JN222001Y Damascus Domestic Service in Arabic 1915 GMT 22 May 78 JN

[Text] In a statement to reporters prior to his departure from Damascus to return to Beirut today, Fu'ad Butrus, Lebanese deputy prime minister and minister of foreign affairs and defense, praised the strong relations existing between the two fraternal countries. He said: During my visit to Damascus today, I conveyed a message from President Ilyas Sarkis to His Excellency President Hafiz al-Asad. I also held talks with Brother 'Abd al-Halim Khaddam which dealt with all matters of concern to the two fraternal countries and the current developments in Lebanon and the Middle East.

Butrus announced that he is carrying an oral message from His Excellency President Hafiz al-Asad to Lebanese President Ilyas Sarkis. He said that his short visit to Damascus is to pave the way for President Sarkis's forthcoming visit to Damascus next week.

In a statement to reporters, 'Abd al-Halim Khaddam affirmed the importance of occasional meetings between officials in Syria and Lebanon. He said: It is natural for such meetings to be held from time to time to review and discuss all issues and matters of concern to the two countries. We reviewed with Brother Butrus all matters of common interest. During the meeting, we affirmed the desire of the Syrian and Lebanese Governments to continue working to strengthen the fraternal relations between the two countries, entrench the government in Lebanon and consolidate its legitimacy, as well as to overcome anything which might impede the effort to restore stability, calm and security in Lebanon.

Replying to a question on the Palestinian presence in Lebanon and the rumors being circulated by certain tendentious quarters regarding this subject, Khaddam said: Those who raise such arguments are serving, whether they want to or not, the Israeli occupation of southern Lebanon. He affirmed that our first concern should now focus on the necessity of Israeli withdrawal from southern Lebanon.

Replying to another question on Israel's announcement of 23 June as the date for withdrawing its forces from southern Lebanon, Khaddam said: Israel is maneuvering in this regard. No quarter should defend this maneuver or insure its success.

On the subject of the Syrian-Lebanese summit conference, Khaddam announced that this summit will convene next week.

TISHRIN COMMENTS ON SYRIAN-LEBANESE RELATIONS

JN230743Y Damascus Domestic Service in Arabic 0415 GMT 23 May 78 JN

[From the press review]

[Text] In today's comment, *TISHRIN* deals with the relations between Syria and Lebanon.

The paper says: Some attempts were made in the past to undermine the fraternal relations and cooperation between Syria and Lebanon. However, those attempts failed. Such attempts will fail in the future as they did in the past because the relations between Syria and the legitimate Lebanese Government of President Ilyas Sarkis are founded on correct and sound bases of mutual respect, objective appreciation of each other's positions and the deep belief in the inevitability of the existing relations between the two countries.

TISHRIN adds: The exchange of visits between officials of the two brotherly countries will undoubtedly help to further strengthen relations and cooperation between them, especially in the present phase when efforts are being exerted to liberate the Lebanese territory from the aggressive Israeli forces and to create a suitable atmosphere to deal with all the questions being raised for discussion in Lebanon.

BA'TH PARTY OFFICIAL CONFERS WITH EPLF LEADER

JN217140Y Damascus Domestic Service in Arabic 1615 GMT 21 May 78 JN

[Text] Comrade Fawwaz Sayyagh, National Command member of the Ba'th Party and chief of the Foreign Relations Bureau in the party, received at his office today Mr (Atiash Acombi), assistant secretary general of the Eritrean Peoples' Liberation Front [EPLF]. The Eritrean leader was accompanied by a number of the front's bureau members in Beirut. The Eritrean leader spoke about the latest developments in the Eritrean revolution and the present circumstances through which the revolution is passing in the face of the Ethiopian invasion. He also described the general political situation facing the revolution and the current developments in the Horn of Africa. The Eritrean leader praised the stand of Syria and the Ba'th Party in support of the Eritrean revolution.

Comrade Sayyagh reiterated the principled and firm stand of the Ba'th Party in support of the Eritrean revolution and stressed the importance of forging unity among the Eritrean revolutionary ranks in order to face the fierce Ethiopian offensive which is aimed at annihilating the Eritrean Arab people. He also said that the unity will guarantee the defeat of this offensive and the achievement of complete independence.

SYRIAN, GDR INDUSTRIAL TALKS BEGIN IN DAMASCUS

JN171447Y Damascus SANA in Arabic 1310 GMT 17 May 78 JN

[Excerpts] Damascus, 17 May--Talks in the field of industrial cooperation between Syria and the GDR began in the hall of the general establishment for cement in Damascus at 1000 today. The Syrian delegation was headed by the industry minister, Shutaywi Sayfu, and the GDR delegation was headed by the minister of heavy machine construction, Gerhard Zimmermann.

The SANA correspondent says that in today's session the two sides drew up a working paper for the talks they will hold during the GDR delegation's visit to Syria, which will last 1 week. They also drew up a program of visits to a number of industrial installation sites in Syria, foremost of which are the cement plants which are being constructed by GDR companies.

ALGERIA

APS: ALGERIA WILL ALLOW OVERFLIGHT OF PLANES FROM ZAIRE

LD221414Y Algiers APS in French 0900 GMT 22 May 78 LD

[Text] Algiers--It has been learned from a source close to authorized circles that the French, Belgian and Italian governments have asked Algeria for authorization for planes coming from Kinshasa to overfly its territory. The same circles are stating that Algeria is radically opposed to foreign intervention in Africa, but for strictly humanitarian reasons it is ready to respond favorably to such a request on the condition that the planes in question are civilian planes carrying only civilians.

ROMANIAN AGRICULTURE MINISTER ARRIVES FOR 5-DAY VISIT

LD181313Y Algiers EL MOUDJAHID in French 16 May 78 p 1 LD

[Text] Algiers, APS--"Algerian-Romanian cooperation in the sphere of agriculture is positive, and my visit, which is within this framework, will make it possible to consolidate it, thanks to the working meetings scheduled in Algiers," stated Mr Angelo Miculescu, deputy prime minister and minister of agriculture and food industry of the Socialist Republic of Romania, on his arrival on Monday afternoon in Algiers, where he is making a 5-day official visit at the invitation of his Algerian counterpart.

Mr Miculescu was greeted as he deplaned by Mr Tayebi Larbi, member of the Council of the Revolution and minister of agriculture and agrarian reform, accompanied by his colleagues, and by Mr Ioan Lazarescu, Romanian ambassador to Algeria.

MOROCCO

KING HASSAN OFFERS TRANSPORTATION SERVICES TO OAU

LD192117Y Rabat Domestic Service in Arabic 2000 GMT 19 May 78 LD

[Text of King Hassan message to Omar Bongo, chairman of the OAU--read by announcer]

[Text] To His Excellency al-Hajj Omar Bongo, president of the Gabon Republic, and current OAU chairman, Libreville. Your excellency president of the Gabon Republic, dear brother, peace and blessings of God be upon you.

Morocco, which is loyal to its deep-rooted traditions, has not forgotten and will not forget the role entrusted to it by history. Our country, which is very aware of its international commitments, has not ceased struggling to uphold the principles of freedom, equality, justice and dignity in the world. In particular, Morocco has remained an ardent supporter of the principles of the OAU Charter and a loyal member of the OAU, an organization that came into being at the Casablanca conference. Morocco had the honor of calling for and taking part in that conference.

The principles of the organization have been and still are influencing Morocco's policy and actions. For this reason, our country from the beginning has been deeply convinced that any violation of the sovereignty or the territorial unity of African states, all of which are worthy of respect and appreciation, is an action that cannot be accepted nor at the same time overlooked, because of the effect on the tranquillity and stability of the entire African Continent.

Morocco is aware of its responsibilities and loyal to commitments imposed on all by the duty of solidarity which must dominate and govern relations between fraternal African states. In order that Morocco may yet once again manifest this African solidarity--and Morocco has always given this solidarity its true meaning and noble significance--Morocco is happy to inform you that we have decided to respond to the appeal you have made to Africans, in your capacity as the current chairman of the OAU, following the painful and (?bloody) events which once again have taken place on the soil of fraternal Zaire.

In view of your proposal and out of eagerness on the part of Morocco to heed it, we place at the disposal of the OAU forces all that is asked of us to give all expedients within Morocco's capacity. Morocco is prepared to bear the responsibilities of organizing and transporting all the African forces which will be placed at the disposal of our African organization.

Thus, Morocco will have fulfilled its duty so that Africa may continue to live a life of dignity, honor, glory and independence.

Mr President, please accept our highest fraternal esteem.

[Signed] Hassan II, King of Morocco

SUDAN

PRESIDENT NUMAYRI RECEIVES MESSAGE FROM ZAIRE COUNTERPART

JN230848Y Khartoum SUNA in Arabic 0815 GMT 23 May 78 JN

[Text] Khartoum, 23 May--Sudanese President Ja'far Numayri has received a message from Zaire President Mobutu Sese Seko on the situation in Shaba Province and the latest developments of the invasion of the province. In his message the Zaire president promised to attend the African summit conference to be held in Khartoum in July. President Numayri received the message when he met with Zaire presidential envoy [name indistinct] yesterday.

EGYPTIAN-SUDANESE COMMITTEE BEGINS MEETING IN KHARTOUM

JN201535Y Khartoum SUNA in Arabic 1445 GMT 20 May 78 JN

[Text] Khartoum, 20 May--The joint technical committee on economics, trade and financial affairs between Egypt and Sudan began its first meeting in Khartoum today to formulate recommendations to be submitted to the respective ministers of trade, supply, national planning, finance and national economy. The chairman of the Sudanese side on the committee stressed that the aim of the committee meetings is to follow up the resolutions and recommendations that have been carried out, and to overcome the obstacles hindering the implementation of [words indistinct]. The meetings are also aimed at developing new proposals to be submitted to the ministerial committee at its meeting in Alexandria in June.

Egyptian Trade Minister Zakariya 'Abd al-Fattah expressed the hope that all hindrances to traffic will be eliminated and that measures will be taken to facilitate trade between the two countries.

The committee will continue its meetings to discuss technical matters and to adopt executive resolutions concerning the recommendations made by the higher ministerial committee in this area.

Numayri Calls for Integration

JN221501Y Khartoum SUNA in Arabic 1530 GMT 22 May 78 JN

[Excerpt] Khartoum, 22 May--Sudanese President Ja'far Numayri has given instructions to eliminate all obstacles to economic and trade integration between Egypt and Sudan. This came during his meeting today with Zakariya Tawfiq 'Abd al-Fattah, Egyptian minister of trade and chairman of the Egyptian delegation to the economic and trade committee, a suborgan of the supreme ministerial committee for integration between Egypt and Sudan.

ROMANIAN AMBASSADOR DELIVERS CEAUSESCU MESSAGE TO NUMAYRI

JN201418Y Khartoum SUNA in Arabic 1215 GMT 20 May 78 JN

[Text] Khartoum, 20 May--President Numayri today received the Romanian ambassador in Khartoum, who presented a message from Romanian President Ceausescu on the results of his visit to the United States and the talks he held with the U.S. President regarding several Middle East issues, as well as the topic of disarmament and European security.

President Numayri reviewed with his excellency the ambassador the topics pertaining to the above issues and handed him a message in reply to the one he received from President Ceausescu.

TUNISIA

GDR, SRV AMBASSADORS PRESENT CREDENTIALS TO BOURGUIBA

LD181335Y Tunis L'ACTION in French 13 May 78 p 2 LD

[Text] At an official ceremony in Carthage Palace at 1130 yesterday, new GDR Ambassador Alfred Peuker presented his credentials to President Bourguiba in the presence of Foreign Affairs Minister Mohamed Fitouri.

The head of state took this opportunity to stress the need to "increase bilateral relations in the interests of both countries." The East German diplomat conveyed the GDR president's very best wishes to President Bourguiba.

The ambassador, who was introduced to the head of state by Chief of Protocol Abdelmajid Karoui, was saluted by a Tunisian Army detachment as he entered and left the presidential palace.

A similar ceremony took place in Carthage Palace at 1145 yesterday, during which Mr Tran Van Hung, Socialist Republic of Vietnam ambassador to Tunis, presented his credentials to President Bourguiba in the presence of Foreign Affairs Minister Mohamed Fitouri.

On receiving the credentials, the head of state told the Vietnamese diplomat: "I have great admiration and respect for the people you represent. Your late leader, the great Ho Chi Minh, and I fought together to free our peoples from the yoke of colonialism."

"Vietnam," President Bourguiba added, "helped us on the road to independence and helped us to recover our sovereignty by the battle of Dien Bien Phu."

The Socialist Republic of Vietnam ambassador, who was presented to the head of state by Chief of Protocol Abdelmajid Karoui, was saluted by a Tunisian Army detachment as he arrived and left.

WESTERN SAHARA

SDAR PRIME MINISTER REQUESTS OAU SUMMIT ON W. SAHARA PROBLEM

LD212158Y Algiers Domestic Service in French 2000 GMT 21 May 78 LD

[Summary] Saharan Democratic Arab Republic [SDAR] Prime Minister Mohamed Ould Lamine gave a press conference today.

During the press conference the prime minister made an appeal to African leaders to take the gravity of the situation in Western Sahara into consideration and call an extraordinary OAU summit in Khartoum.

He also said that eight Spanish fishermen, who were caught pillaging the territorial waters of the Western Sahara, would be judged by the People's Congress. He said that the POLISARIO Front is in the process of laying mines in the territorial waters of the SDAR so that adventurers would be risking not only prison, but death. He also promised that the pilots of the French Jaguars who were caught would be tried.

LAMINE: FRENCH PILOTS WILL BE TRIED BY 'PEOPLE'S CONGRESS'

PA211901Y Paris AFP in French 1711 GMT 21 May 78 PA

[Text] Tindouf, 21 May (AFP)--Saharawi Prime Minister Mohamed Lamine has announced to the international press that "if the French piloting the Jaguar planes are captured alive by the Saharawi people, they will be judged by the congress of the Saharawi people's ranks, which will decide their fate."

"In the meantime," Lamine added, "the problem of those pilots will be in the hands of the units that capture them during their operations. But if they reach our hands alive, we shall present them to the people...who will not be too happy because they will be facing the people who exterminate and kill them and they will have to judge these people accordingly."

AFP: POLISARIO ATTACKS TWO MAURITANIAN TOWNS

PA221254Y Paris AFP in English 1240 GMT 22 May 78 PA

[Text] Nouakchott, May 22 (AFP)--Guerrillas of the Saharan liberation movement POLISARIO made separate attacks on two small towns north of here last week, reliable sources said today.

Both attacks were made at night by 20-vehicle columns equipped with heavy arms, the sources added. The first, on Tuesday, was on Aoussred, a small town in the centre of the former Western Sahara region, now taken over by Mauritania under its partitioning agreement with Morocco.

The second, on Saturday, was on Fderik, 30 kms (19 miles) west of the Mauritanian iron-mining town of Zouirate. There were no victims or major damage in either attack, the sources said.

Algerian-backed POLISARIO is fighting a guerrilla war for the independence of the former Spanish Saharan territory.

BEGIN ANSWERS CARTER; WEIZMAN EXPECTED TO VISIT U.S.

TA222020Y Jerusalem Domestic Service in Hebrew 1900 GMT 22 May 78 TA

[Text] Prime Minister Menahem Begin answered President Carter's letter on the tripartite aircraft deal. In his letter the prime minister says the deal may be an obstacle on the way to peace and may upset the balance of power in the Middle East. The prime minister demands in his letter that this upset in the balance of power be prevented and that Israel's military power be strengthened.

Our political correspondent Elimelekh Ram says that it seems certain that the defense minister will make a trip to the United States at this stage. Political circles expressed optimism today about the success of such a trip in the light of the atmosphere of appeasement toward Israel prevailing in the U.S. administration.

HA'AREZ CORRESPONDENT DISCUSSES RECENT CABINET SESSION

Weizman Visit, Aircraft Deal

TA221229Y Tel Aviv HA'AREZ in Hebrew 22 May 78 p 1 TA

[By 'Uzzi Benziman]

[Text] Yesterday, the cabinet heard reports on the talks recently held in Washington. Its approval was being sought for the continuation of Defense Minister 'Ezer Weizman's discussions with the U.S. administration on Israel's defense requirements.

The defense minister was in the United States when the terrorist squad took control of the bus on the coastal road. Weizman immediately ended his visit--which was concentrated on political issues and was to have brought about the conclusion of military equipment deals--and returned to Israel.

Now, after Senate approval of the aircraft deal, Israel wishes to clarify with Washington the practical steps arising from the deal, which are intended to insure means to prevent damage to Israel's security. Clarifications should be held now, with one aim being to continue the dialog regarding procurement and military matters between Weizman and the U.S. administration.

At yesterday's cabinet session, the prime minister said about the aircraft deal that Israel had struggled to prevent the approval of the sale of sophisticated aircraft to Saudi Arabia, which will be relevant within 3 to 4 years. The prime minister expressed himself harshly about the breaking of the U.S. commitment as evidenced in the Senate decision. He reported about his talk with U.S. Ambassador Samuel Lewis at the end of last week with reference to that issue.

Similar things were also said by Foreign Minister Moshe Dayan who reported on his talk with Ambassador Lewis. Weizman pointed out the military implications the supply of F-16 [as published] aircraft to Saudi Arabia will have and said that the IDF will have to find answers to the threat. The other ministers who participated in the session said similar things.

Arye Na'or, the cabinet secretary, said after yesterday's cabinet session, that during the discussion the members of the cabinet expressed concern over the violation of the Middle East balance of power and over the fact that there is an unconditional commitment by the U.S. President to supply Israel with F-16 aircraft. [as published] Concern was expressed at the session over the possibility that this arms deal might bring about a further hardening of the Arab countries' position, which is in any case hard and uncompromising. All this, the secretary concluded, creates a threat to Israel's security and the government will act to lessen it.

U.S. Didn't Expect Answers

TA221250Y Tel Aviv HA'AREZ in Hebrew 22 May 78 p 1 TA

[By 'Uzzi Benziman]

[Text] Following Washington's recommendation, the government yesterday [in the cabinet session] refrained from dealing with the political issue and with questions presented by the U.S. administration to the foreign minister, and will probably not deal with these issues for several weeks.

In the last few days, the administration has forwarded to Jerusalem its opinion that the cabinet does not need to hurry to provide answers to its questions concerning the situation of the West Bank and Gaza Strip at the end of the autonomy period. The administration's reasoning for its recommendation was that the decision to sell aircraft to Saudi Arabia has created a negative attitude within the Israeli cabinet, on the one hand, and has created high expectations on the Egyptian side, on the other. The administration knows that in the present situation it will be impossible to achieve a compromise approach on the part of Israel, just as it will not be possible to move Cairo from its positions in the face of As-Sadat's confidence in the U.S. position on the aircraft deal.

Consequently, Washington has recommended that the government not hurry to reply to its questions and rather wait for a calmer time.

Knowledgeable sources claimed yesterday that the government's refraining from dealing with the U.S. questions at yesterday's cabinet session should not be regarded as compliance with Washington's recommendations. These elements claimed that in this case the U.S. position agrees with Israel's view that Israel should not hurry to reply to the United States as long as Egypt has not bothered to present a counter peace plan.

Yesterday the cabinet secretary said that the matter was not dealt with by the government because the agenda was heavy. He added that the subject will be raised in a coming session.

The HA'AREZ correspondent says that prior to the cabinet session, Prime Minister Begin consulted with Ministers Dayan and Weizman.

U.S.-ISRAELI VIEWS OF MIDEAST POWER BALANCE CITED

TA221045Y Tel Aviv HA'AREZ in Hebrew 22 May 78 p 1 TA

[Text] Following the U.S. decision to supply Saudi Arabia with 60 F-15 aircraft, the security authorities have decided to request the United States to rediscuss the Matmon C procurement plan, which is a plan for strengthening and building-up the IDF over the next 10 years, based on Israel's estimate of the Middle East balance of power. The United States had rejected large parts of the plan, claiming that their assessment of the balance of power was different from Israel's. The U.S. assessment did not take into account the future state of the Saudi forces.

The Matmon C plan was intended to have brought up for initial discussion during Defense Minister 'Ezer Weizman's planned visit last year. As will be recalled, the visit was postponed, and therefore the director general of the Ministry of Defense, Prof Pinhas Zussman, was sent last year to present the plan to the Pentagon. Weizman's visit was postponed several times in the past, but even before his arrival in Washington there were evaluations by U.S. administration elements which did not accept Israel's balance of power evaluation. The bone of contention was the inclusion of several Arab countries, such as Iraq and Saudi Arabia, as well as other Arab expeditionary forces in the summing up of the balance of power. It must be noted that these differences have existed in the past as well, when the previous Matmon plans were presented.

Since its submission the Matmon C has not been thoroughly discussed. Even during Weizman's visit to Washington things were not concluded and all the administration was prepared to do was to unfreeze $100 million from the plan concerning equipment, arms and ammunition for Israel.

Now Israel wishes to renew the discussion of its plan, emphasizing that following the decision to supply Saudi Arabia with 60 F-15 aircraft and further arms procurements by Riyadh, the evaluations of the balance of power must be changed. The question is not one of an additional 20 F-15 aircraft to Israel, but a much wider problem concerning a change in the approach, elements in the defense establishment say. The Matmon C plan does not refer only to the air force but to all the branches and to the balance of power in general.

The chances for a basic change in the evaluation of the balance of power by the United States are slight. Even after the decision to supply the Saudis with F-15 aircraft, U.S. experts say that the Saudi threat to Israel is not real. The aircraft will begin arriving in Saudi Arabia as of 1981 and their supply will take several years. It is obvious that a change in the estimation of the balance of power on the part of the United States would mean the supply of larger quantities of equipment to Israel without Israel's ability to pay for them. The result would be that such a change would put the financial load on the United States.

ZIPPORI STRESSES IMPORTANCE OF JUDAEA, SAMARIA

TA221113Y Tel Aviv MA'ARIV in Hebrew 22 May 78 p 4 TA

[Text] "If Israel is left without the Judaea and Samaria territories, it will only be a matter of time before it is exterminated. The moment we leave Judaea and Samaria, we will not have an airport from which we can take off and there will be 4,000 tanks in Tulkarm which I wonder if we could stop," Deputy Defense Minister Mordekhay Zippori said yesterday in remarks at Herzliyya's "citizen's house" on behalf of Bnai Brith.

The deputy defense minister said that the central question is whether our defense forces will be stronger with one foot in the Jordan River and the other in the desert, or with one foot in the sea.

BETHLEHEM MAYOR ACCUSES ISRAEL OF USURPING LANDS

NC211256Y Jerusalem Domestic Service in Hebrew 1200 GMT 21 May 78 NC

[Text] The mayor of Bethlehem, Ilyas Furayj, claims that the Israel Land Administration is trying to take over lands owned by inhabitants of his town who are in the American Continent.

The mayor said that, lately, the administrator general's office for absentees' property in Bethlehem has started to cancel its recognition of the power of attorney given to certain inhabitants of the town to administer the property of the town's inhabitants who are abroad.

According to him, reference is made to a sizeable amount of property and lands and that he is about to raise this question with the head of the Defense Ministry.

The military governership has strongly denied the Bethlehem Mayor's claims.

Our correspondent Pinhas 'Inbari has been told that there is no change whatsoever in the policy concerning absentees' property; that is to say, "absentees" refers only to those living in enemy countries and that Bethlehem inhabitants residing in Western countries are not considered absentees.

Absentee Property Decree Changed

TA221210Y Tel Aviv HA'AREZ in Hebrew 22 May 78 p 2 TA

[By Yehuda Litani]

[Text] Reliable sources in the Israel Land Administration yesterday disclosed that, despite denials by senior security elements, in the last few months there has been a substantial change in the interpretation of Decree No 58 (regarding absentee property and private property, issued in 1967), according to which, unlike in the past, anyone who has left the West Bank for good is considered an absentee and his property has become "absentee property."

Several months ago, only those who have left the West Bank for Arab countries for good were considered absentees and their property "absentee property." Now, the land administration claims that, according to the decree, anyone who has left the West Bank for good is an absentee. Thus the administrator has control over large properties--according to one estimate, a quarter million dunams of land, as well as houses, factories and other property, centered mainly in the areas populated by Christians (mainly in the Jerusalem, Ramallah, and Bethlehem areas).

It has been reported that in the past few months the administrators of absentee properties in the various subdistricts received orders to act according to the new interpretation of Decree No 58, and that requests by many inhabitants of the West Bank for the renewal of powers of attorney were not granted. Two clarifications held before the appeals committee of the Judaea and Samaria command were dismissed in accordance with the new interpretation of the decree. The East Jerusalem paper AL-QUDS reported yesterday that former inhabitants of the West Bank who are now residing in the United States are organizing various moves designed to exert pressure on the U.S. administration and to demand the alteration of the new interpretation of the decree, which for them means loss of property.

Elements in the military government of Judaea and Samaria yesterday put forth the version according to which the person in charge of an absentee property (who is also the representative of the Israel Land Administration in the West Bank) in Judaea and Samaria is subordinate to the Israel Land Administration headed by Agriculture Minister Ari'el Sharon. According to that version, the order to reinterpret the decree was given by the land administration people in consultation or cooperation with Defense Ministry or military government officials.

Legal Consultations on Decree

TA230700Y Jerusalem Domestic Service in Hebrew 0600 GMT 23 May 78 TA

[Text] In consultations held this week at the top level of the Ministry of Justice, the legal claims according to which the state attorney will justify the taking over of land for the purposes of settlement in Judaea and Samaria, were cyrstallized. Our correspondent Moshe Negbi points out that the consultations were held in the name of an appeal to the Supreme Court submitted by inhabitants of An Nabi Salih. Legal experts from the defense establishment also took part in the consultations. As far as can be seen, the state attorney claims, the security settlement in the territories is a military requirement and appropriations of land for military requirements is permitted in accordance with international law applicable to conquered territories.

Bethlehem Inhabitants Protest

TA230701Y Jerusalem Domestic Service in Hebrew 0600 GMT 23 May 78 TA

[Text] In the Bethlehem municipality building several of the town's inhabitants are meeting this morning, claiming that the administrator of absentee property had canceled the powers of attorney given them to administer the assets of their relatives abroad. Our correspondent Pihas 'Inbari has learned from the military government that there is no change in the policy on the matter of absentee properties in the West Bank. However, the military government personnel have promised that, if they find violations, they will be investigated.

ARAB WEST BANK VILLAGERS PROTEST SETTLEMENTS

NC211138Y Jerusalem Domestic Service in Hebrew 1100 GMT 21 May 78 NC

[Text] The judge on duty at the supreme court, Moshe Landau, today decided to transfer to a team of three judges the deliberation on the petition of landowners and mukhtars of the An Nabi Salih village concerning settlements in the area.

The landowners' attorney has submitted a petition against the defense minister and the commanders of the military government in Judaea and Samaria, in which he ordered them to outline their reasons why the petitioners should not be left alone to till their lands.

The petitioners are also demanding the issuance of an interim injunction to prohibit work on the site pending the conclusion of the deliberations on the petition.

BEDOUIN HOMES BULLDOZED FOR INDUSTRIAL DEVELOPMENT

TA181100Y Jerusalem POST in English 18 May 78 p 1 TA

[By Zvi Arenstein]

[Text] Beersheba--Bulldozers and trucks belonging to the "Green Patrol" of the nature reserves authority were used yesterday morning to implement demolition orders for 12 bedouin tin and wood huts located on land expropriated south of Dimona for industrial building.

The bedouin claim ownership of more than 5,000 dunam of the 26,000 which were expropriated, but they lack documents which could be used in a court of law to prove their claim.

According to one of the bedouin, an unspecified number of "Green Patrol" agents, accompanied by police, knocked down eight houses made of cinder blocks, some of them standing since the time of the British mandate, and pulled up 12 bedouin tents. The source said that about 30 families belonging to the Abu Krinat, Al-Aasam and Al-Azazma tribes were made homeless.

The men of the tribes were away at work at the time of the operation and only old men, women and children were present. They were not allowed to remove personal possessions from the homes, the bedouin said. The tents, along with mattresses, some of them stuffed with money, family jewelry, and clothing, were loaded onto trucks and dumped in a nearby bedouin cemetery.

During the operation the bedouin sheikhs of the Negev arrived at the scene and tried to calm the affected families.

The bedouin source emphatically denied the Green Patrol's contention, circulated in a press release yesterday, that the operation was carried out with the complete cooperation of the bedouin families.

He said that the 30 families who were forcibly relocated yesterday were "sleeping under the stars" last night.

The committee of Negev bedouin sheikhs last night sent a protest telegram to Prime Minister Begin, in which they demanded a parliamentary committee to investigate the incident and the prime minister's immediate intervention to prevent further such occurrences.

A Government Press Office statement issued yesterday said the relocation had been carried out with the full cooperation of the bedouin involved.

A Beersheba police spokesman confirmed that the police had been present, but said they had not taken part in the relocation.

EAST JERUSALEM MOSLEM COUNCIL PROTEST

TA190851Y Jerusalem Domestic Service in Hebrew 0505 GMT 19 May 78 TA

[From the Morning Newsreel]

[Text] Here in Jerusalem, the High Moslem Council in East Jerusalem published a sharp statement last night protesting against the cabinet's plan to cancel restrictions springing from the British mandatory law regarding the Western Wall. Our correspondent on Arab Affairs, Arye Gus, reports on this:

About 2 weeks ago the Ministry of Justice submitted a governmental proposal memo intended to cancel the royal edict laying down a series of bans on Jews; bans connected with the arrangements for prayer at the Western Wall. For example, the royal edict forbade Jews to blow the Shofar on Yom Kippur, to set up prayer constructions and so on. In fact, these restrictions have already been canceled by judgments of the high court, and the Ministry of Justice, Justice Minister Shemu'el Tamir said this morning, has only submitted a proposal to cancel them formally.

But the High Moslem Council comes out this morning with a sharp statement. Taking into consideration the seriousness of the proposal, Shaykh (Hilmi Mukhtasib) says, and taking into consideration the fact that the minister of justice is now putting forward a sensitive issue touching on Moslem sensitivities and the foundations of their belief, I wish to make it plain beyond any shadow of a doubt that there is no room for any discussion of Moslem ownership of the Western Wall of Al-Aqsa Mosque. This, of course, means the Western Wall. The repeated attempt by extremists, Shaykh (Mukhtasib) says, and their attempts and dreams connected with the temple, the date of its construction and its siting, all this proves their evil machinations toward the holy place of the Moslems. I hope that this is all rumor, Shaykh (Mukhtasib) says, but I bear witness before heaven and earth that even the actual fact of the discussion of canceling the restrictions connected with the ownership of Al-Aqsa Mosque is considered as a grave blow at the Moslem holy places. In the announcement, he warns against the dangerous results of this playing with fire. Shaykh (Mukhtasib) admits that he did not take the trouble to contact the Ministry of Justice; however, he is ready for a meeting with the minister to clarify the matter.

DEFENSE MINISTRY TO OPEN STRATEGIC PLANNING UNIT

TA221115Y Tel Aviv MA'ARIV in Hebrew 22 May 78 p 2 TA

[By Ya'aqov Erez]

[Text] A strategic planning unit is to be opened in the Ministry of Defense, headed by the chief of Planning Branch, Maj Gen Avraham Tamir.

The unit will centralize the activity of the committees already operating in the fields of infrastructure planning and in matters pertaining to Israel's national security. The unit will also investigate political-security matters and will centralize security-economic issues.

IDF TO REPLACE POLICE IN PATROLLING COASTLINE

TA220930Y Tel Aviv HA'AREZ in Hebrew 22 May 78 p 1 TA

[By Ze'ev Schiff]

[Text] Following the coastal road massacre and a reassessment of the division of responsibility between the police force and the IDF in combatting terror inside Israel, it has been decided that the IDF will assume responsibility over the coastal region in a division similar to that which exists with reference to the mainland borders.

After the Ma'alot massacre, the recommendation of (Res) Maj Gen Rehav'am Ze'evi (who was the prime minister's adviser for combatting terrorism) was accepted, according to which the IDF would be responsible for combatting terrorism along the borders and along a belt of inland territory 10 km from the borders. On the other hand, the police, including the border police, assumed responsibility over all other parts of the country. Such a division, however, was not applied to the coasts. The common practice was that the navy was responsible for patrolling and defending the sea, while the police were responsible for the shores and inland territories.

Following the coastal road massacre and the emergence of severe problems in coordinating and operating the forces against the terrorists, a renewed discussion of the problem was held. A decision in principle was passed, acceptable to the IDF and the police forces, that the division of authority along the coastline would in future be similar to the division of authority along the mainland borders. In other words, henceforth the IDF will be in charge of coastal security. The depth of the coastal area to be under IDF responsibility has still not been determined, but apparently it will be less than 10 km, which is the customary depth with reference to the mainland borders. This conclusion has been submitted to the defense minister as well as the interior minister who is in charge of police and border police activity.

Following this decision, the IDF will continue to set up observation posts along the coast and it looks like it will divide the coastal areas to regional units and will operate civil defense units as well as units in training, in regular patrols along the coasts.

DAYAN BRIEFS FOREIGN MINISTRY OFFICIALS ON PEACE PLAN

TA221810Y Jerusalem Domestic Service in Hebrew 1800 GMT 22 May 78 TA

[Text] Foreign Minister Moshe Dayan said the Israeli peace plan that pertains to the territories is based on Israel's desire to end its rule over 1 million Arabs. Dayan said that our ambition is to coexist with them. The intention of the administrative autonomy is that we end our rule over the Arabs, with the proviso, however, that we are assured of our basic interests, such as the security of Israel and the right to establish settlements. The foreign minister was speaking at a briefing of the Foreign Ministry's senior officials.

DAYAN CRITICAL OF COVERAGE OF HIS SCANDINAVIAN TOUR

TA221054Y Tel Aviv HA'AREZ in Hebrew 22 May 78 p 2 TA

[Excerpt] Foreign Minister Moshe Dayan yesterday leveled criticism at the broadcasting authority correspondents who covered his Scandinavian tour.

During a briefing he gave the cabinet on his visit to Scandinavia, the foreign minister said that correspondents Eliyahu Zehavi and Mikha'el Qarpin maintained a hostile approach to the government's policy in their work in Scandinavia. Dayan claimed that the Danish foreign minister complained that Qarpin presented questions to him in which one could discern an aim to extract a declaration hostile to Israel while, according to Dayan, Zehavi did not hesitate to express objections to Israel's stance in his work on behalf of the broadcasting authority.

PERES ON NATIONAL DEBT GROWTH UNDER CURRENT CABINET

TA221236Y Jerusalem Domestic Service in Hebrew 1200 GMT 22 May 78 TA

[Text] The chairman of the Labor Party, Shim'on Peres, has said that the current cabinet has within a year increased Israel's national debt by 100 billion Israeli pounds in contrast to the debt of 150 billion Israeli pounds left by the pervious cabinet after 29 years in power. Peres was speaking at the national council of management of his party's cells in places of work, which met in Tel Aviv.

He pointed out that the economic gap made the social gap worse and was likely to lead to social crises. These expected crises, together with the political crisis in which Israel is involved, brought closer, in Shim'on Peres' view, the date of the next election to the Knesset. He called on those present to organize toward this possibility.

USSR DELEGATION ARRIVES IN ISRAEL

TA211453Y Tel Aviv 'AL HAMISHMAR in Hebrew 21 May 78 p 2 TA

[Text] (ITIM) A 3-man Soviet delegation arrived in Israel on Friday for a visit of a week to participate in the events of the 33d anniversary of the victory over Nazi Germany.

The delegation is the guest of the "Movement for Israeli-USSR Friendship" and its members are: Dimitri Mamalayev, deputy chief editor of the daily SOVIETSKAYA KULTURA; Heinrich Hoffman, a Jew who participated as a pilot in World War II and gained the title of "Hero of the Soviet Union" and wrote books about World War II; and Yuri Mikhayev, a correspondent for the Soviet Press Agency NOVOSTI and the weekly Moscow news in English.

The three attended a "victory rally" on Saturday, held in the Red Army Forest in the hills of Jerusalem near Ma'aleh Hahamisha. Thousands attended the rally, coming from various parts of the country.

Dimitri Mamalayev spoke, praising the heroism of the people from all the nations, including the Jews, who fought on the anti-Hitler front for all of humanity.

Referring to the Middle East problems, he said: "Life has proved that no maneuvers behind the scenes and no separate deals ever lead to genuine peace. A just and stable settlement, which is desired by all the people of the area, can be obtained within the framework of the Geneva peace conference, attended by all the sides involved, including the PLO. Peace is for the good of Israel and the neighboring peoples"--the guest said.

The author Mordekhay Avi-Sha'ul and Dr Emil Touma also spoke.

SHAH RETURNS HOME AFTER EASTERN EUROPE VISIT

LD230538Y Teheran Domestic Service in Persian 1900 GMT 22 May 78 LD

[Text] The shah and the shahbanu returned to Teheran tonight after their state visits to Bulgaria and Hungary. An official welcoming ceremony was held at Mehrabad Airport. The welcoming party included his imperial highness the crown prince, Her Imperial Highness Princess Farahnaz, His Royal Highness Prince Alireza, Her Royal Highness Princess Leyla Pahlavi and His Royal Highness Prince Adorreza Pahlavi, as well as Prime Minister Jamshid Amuzegar, members of the cabinet and other military and civilian officials.

Visit to Bulgaria

For Bulgarian media reportage on the visit to Bulgaria, which began 16 May, of Shah Mohammed Reza Pahlavi, including a Sofia BTA report on the joint communique signed on the visit, see the Bulgaria section of the 17 May Eastern Europe DAILY REPORT and subsequent issues.

Visit to Hungary

For Hungarian media reportage on the visit of Shah Mohammad Reza Pahlavi to Hungary see the Hungary section of the 22 and 23 May Eastern Europe DAILY REPORT.

CABINET LIMITS NATIONAL HOLIDAYS TO TWO

LD221018Y Teheran Domestic Service in Persian 0900 GMT 22 May 78 LD

[Excerpt] The cabinet, presided over by Prime Minister Amuzegar, met today. At the end of the meeting, which lasted 3-1/2 hours Daryush Homayun, minister of information and tourism and spokesman for the government, spoke to reporters, including our correspondent Barahman Shirzad. He said: As ordered by the shah and communicated to the members of the cabinet by Prime Minister Amuzegar, the country's national days will, as of now, be restricted to 26 October [the shah's birthday] and 26 January [anniversary of the shah-people revolution].

AFGHANISTAN

FOREIGN MINISTER AMIN RETURNS FROM NONALINED MEETING

LD221920Y Kabul Domestic Service in Dari 1600 GMT 22 May 78 LD/BK

[Excerpt] Hafizollah Amin, deputy prime minister and foreign minister, who led the DRA delegation at the Sixth Session of the nonalined nations' Ministerial Coordinating Bureau in Havana, today returned to Kabul after taking part in that session. Babrak Karmal, the vice president of the Revolutionary Council and deputy prime minister; Col Mohammad Aslam Watanjar, the deputy prime minister and minister of communications; members of the government and a number of high-ranking military and civil officials welcomed Mr Amin at the airport.

REPORT OF FOREIGN MINISTER AMIN'S STOPOVER IN MOSCOW

For a Moscow Radio account of the brief visit of Hafizollah Amin, deputy prime minister and foreign minister of the Democratic Republic of Afghanistan, and a Moscow TASS account of the joint communique issued at the end of the visit to Moscow on 17 May, see the South Asia section of the 19 May Soviet Union DAILY REPORT.

TARAKI RECEIVES CITIZENS DELEGATION IN KABUL

JN221535Y Kabul in Arabic to the Arab World 1000 GMT 22 May 78 JN

[Text] Nur Mohammad Taraki, president of the Revolutionary Council and prime minister of Afghanistan, met at the Revolutionary Council headquarters yesterday morning with some tribes from [words indistinct] and a number of citizens from Qandahar Province. During the meeting, Taraki talked to them about the aims of the Sowr 1357 revolution which was staged by the people of Afghanistan and the leadership of the Afghan Khalq Party. This revolution, he said, is not confined to a certain class but comprises all the toilers of Afghanistan, including workers, peasants and all people of this country. Taraki added that the Afghan Government serves the Afghan people according to the broad lines of its functions and is not a government which is confined [words indistinct] to this or that. It serves the people who work faithfully for Afghanistan, whether they be peasants, workers or herdsmen.

In a detailed speech to explain [words indistinct] of the revolution and the activities of the democratic Khalq Party of Afghanistan, Taraki said: Our historic tasks mean that we will save our people from the humiliation and the pressures they faced under the royal regime and the corrupt fascist republican regime. Our democratic national revolution has toppled the acts of oppression and despotism forever. Once again I congratulate you on it, he said.

The president of the Revolutionary Council and prime minister added: Now that the democratic republican regime in this country has become settled, my colleagues and I are exerting our utmost efforts for the construction and progress of this country, despite the fact that our economy is very weak and that Nadir's family looted everything. We are trying to build our country and establish a new, progressive Afghanistan.

Taraki went on to say: During the meetings we held with [words indistinct] we obtained their economic aid. We have accepted and will accept aid from friendly countries which recognize our revolution, but we do not and will not follow another's policy. We accept all help given without conditions.

He then said: The Democratic Republic of Afghanistan is now (?witnessing) a comprehensive stabilization of domestic security, and the help of all the people is an essential priority in this respect. Fortunately, as is obvious, all our people are pleased with this revolution. They have received and continue to receive it with complete happiness and rejoicing. Yet despite all this, foreign reaction is afraid of this successful revolution. If we take these factors into consideration and if, God forbid, they interfere with our revolution and internal policy like [words indistinct], whose government was overthrown by foreign plots; I reassure you that our revolution will bravely reply to any move by foreign enemies and [words indistinct] forever. I also promise you that if our external enemies stage any subversion against us, all of the people, every man and woman, will stand, beyond any doubt, hand in hand against it.

At the end of the meeting, Nur Mohammad Taraki asked the heads of the (?Jarmaq) tribes and the citizens of Qandahar to extend his warm greetings to all friends in their areas. In return, one of the heads of these tribes spoke on behalf of his brothers and congratulated Nur Mohammad Taraki and all his colleagues on the success of the democratic revolution. He also pledged that they are ready, under all circumstances, for the independence [word indistinct] of the Democratic Republic of Afghanistan and to offer all sorts of [words indistinct] in this respect.

TARAKI RECEIVES TRIBAL LEADERS, DISCUSSES REVOLUTION

LD221723Y Kabul Domestic Service in Dari 1600 GMT 22 May 78 LD/BK

[Summary] Nur Mohammad Taraki, president of the Revolutionary Council of the Democratic Republic of Afghanistan [DRA], received a number of notables from Ghazni as well as representatives from Hilmand, Qandahar, Takhar, Logar, Laghman and Paktia provinces in the Revolutionary Council headquarters' garden today and talked to them in a very warm and cordial atmosphere. Taraki described the aims of the 27 April Revolution and said: "This revolution is your revolution. It has taken place for your benefit" and aims to serve the workers, farmers and all the people of the DRA. Taraki said that the DRA Government will implement the promises it has given for the socioeconomic development of the country. In order to do this, the DRA Government will need the aid and cooperation of friendly countries free of any strings or conditions.

Taraki added: "Our revolution is founded on the principles of the sacred religion of Islam, and the DRA comes from the people of Afghanistan and will serve the people of Afghanistan."

Taraki asked the audience to convey his best wishes to their tribes and relatives and assure them that the tyrannical rule of the Nadir Dynasty has been discontinued. The DRA will struggle against all forms of discrimination, and this struggle has already begun.

Reciprocally, the tribal notables expressed their readiness to serve the revolutionary order of the country under the leadership of the Democratic People's Party of Afghanistan. Mohammad La'eq, minister of radio and television, was present on this occasion.

Further Meetings

LD221737Y Kabul Domestic Service in Dari 1600 GMT 22 May 78 LD/BK

[Summary] Nur Mohammad Taraki, president of the DRA, received a number of representatives of the people of Gardiz, the capital of Paktia Province, as well as tribal notables from Zadran and Mangal of Paktia Province at the Revolutionary Council headquarter's garden today and talked to them.

Deputy Prime Minister and Minister of Communications Aslam Watanjar was also present. Taraki expressed pleasure at this opportunity to meet with the people of Paktia and described the duties of the DRA Government in the context of the 27 April revolution. Taraki denounced the despotic Daud regime and said that the new revolutionary order will serve the people. The period of tyranny has come to an end, and injustice, discrimination and inequalities will have no place in our beloved country. As expressed in the main policy statements of the DRA, I assure you that there is no other aim to be pursued except the welfare and prosperity of our people and the creation of a progressive, free and strong Afghanistan. Taraki added that the previous corrupt regime created division and disunity among the people and various tribes and followed a divide-and-rule policy. As a result of the successful revolution of 27 April, our aim is to live in an atmosphere of complete unity, solidarity and fraternity and to work united for the welfare and prosperity of Afghanistan. Taraki asked his audience to convey his best wishes to their friends and relatives.

The meeting was held in "an atmosphere of extreme friendship and cordiality for nearly an hour."

TARAKI DESCRIBES EVENTS OF 27 APRIL TO AFGHAN GROUPS

LD212106Y Kabul Domestic Service in Dari 1600 GMT 21 May 78 LD/HK

[Excerpts] Nur Mohammad Taraki, the president of the Revolutionary Council [RC] and prime minister of the Democratic Republic of Afghanistan [DRA] received the representatives of the people of Badakhshan and the representatives of the people of Qandahar at the RC headquarters at 0930 today. Pohanwal Mohammad Mansur Hashemi, minister of water and power, was present. After asking about their well-being, Nur Mohammad Taraki described the revolution of 27 April which ended the tyranny of the Nader dynasty and the demagogic regime of Daud and said: The Democratic People's Party was established 15 years ago for the purpose of eliminating oppression and cruelty in the country. It pursued its struggle in this way on the basis of the national mentality until it finally put an end to the rule of tyranny in our country.

Nur Mohammad Taraki said: Two years ago we had the power to demolish the palaces of tyranny and despotism of the oppressors, but we waited until we were able to attain this aim without any losses. Fortunately for the victorious revolution of 27 April, on the very same day on which the autocratic Daud government (?held a meeting) to discuss our extinction and eradication, it was itself toppled, and our noble nation was rescued forever from the sway of this oppressive and autocratic family.

The president of the RC and prime minister of the DRA said: Today, the DRA is a government of the workers, farmers, toilers and all the hard-working people of this nation, and all the government employees are in the service of the people of Afghanistan. The ministers of the Government of the DRA are not [word indistinct] but are responsible ministers from the people and in the service of the people. [passage indistinct]

At the end, Nur Mohammad Taraki alluded to propaganda by the external and internal enemies and the unjust judgments that they give out about Afghanistan's national revolution, and said: We are Moslems, and our aims are only to serve the people of Afghanistan and the country's progress. We have no fear from such incorrect propaganda. I ask you to convey our best and cordial wishes to your people and tell them that their national revolutionary government is not [word indistinct] but is in their active service and is doing the utmost for their welfare. [passage indistinct]

TANJUG REPORTS RETURN TO ECONOMIC NORMALCY

LD211048Y Belgrade TANJUG Domestic Service in Serbo-Croatian 0904 GMT 21 May 78 LD

[Text] Kabul--Mohammad Taraki, president of the Afghan Revolutionary Council, warned the nation today about the "criminal work of a small number of reactionaries" who "in collusion with foreign reaction are spreading false propaganda about our country." "But no hostile blows," he said, "will be able to break the people's revolution."

President Taraki was speaking at a meeting with representatives of the leaders of the Mangali tribe, one of the 30 or so national and ethnic groups in Afghanistan. He said nothing more precise about the "hostile work of the reaction," but a few days ago an official government spokesman decisively rejected as "false propaganda" news from abroad about the list of victims during the coup at the end of April.

The government statements issued today have, however, thrown rather more light on the subject of the reaction's activity, particularly on the economic level. A statement from the Ministry of Finance calls on citizens "without fearing the confiscation of property to continue to put their money and foreign currency in the banks." "We must frankly say that keeping money at home represents an antipatriotic act against the revolution," this statement says. It also states precisely that "banking activity will be carried out within the framework of the law, in conditions of complete secrecy and the inviolability of deposits and property."

Starting today all banks in Kabul are open again after a short interruption in business which apparently occurred because of a rush by depositors to withdraw their savings.

In another statement, the Ministry of Trade states that all borders are now open once more for the unhindered import and export of goods. Traders and enterprises are advised, however, to carry out all financial business regarding exchange with foreign countries through the banks only and not, as has hitherto frequently been the case, through private channels. The obligation of importers to pay the requisite customs duties in the shortest possible time, within 3 months at most, was also repeated. Last week large quantities of imported goods on which import duties had not been paid were confiscated.

INDIA

VAJPAYEE ARRIVES IN AUSTRIA ON OFFICIAL VISIT

For Vienna reportage on Foreign Minister Vajpayee's 2-day official visit to Austria, which began on 22 May, see the Austria section of the 23 May Western Europe DAILY REPORT and subsequent issues.

PEOPLE'S CONFERENCE GAINS MAJORITY IN MIZORAM ASSEMBLY

BK221322Y Delhi Domestic Service in English 1230 GMT 22 May 78 BK

[Text] In Mizoram, the People's Conference has won absolute majority in the union territory elections.

With the results of 18 of the 30 elective seats in the Assembly in, the party has won 16. The other two seats have gone to the Mizoram Congress.

NEPAL

TRADE DELEGATION DEPARTS FOR NEGOTIATIONS IN PRC

BK191041Y Hong Kong AFP in English 0929 GMT 19 May 78 BK

[Text] Katmandu, May 19 (AFP)--A high-ranking official Nepalese trade delegation left here this morning for Peking to negotiate trade arrangements with China. The trade delegation is headed by Commerce and Industry Secretary D.R. Koipala who was recently transferred to this ministry from the Ministry of Food and Agriculture.

This will be the first such meeting between the officials of China and Nepal since the two countries signed the trade treaties in 1974. Although both Nepal and China want to expand their bilateral trade turnover, the geographical position of Nepal had hindered this. Nepal and China are linked by a modern all-weather highway via Kodari--the entry point to Lhasa--but the trade turnover still remains low, despite the desire of both the countries for its expansion.

According to the latest available official figures, trade did not exceed $4 million annually of which over 60 percent of the balance of payments was in Nepal's favour. Nepal has been importing on average $8.5 million worth of different varieties of consumer goods, light machinery and construction materials from China, but they were all under China's free economic cooperation arrangement with this landlocked country. The sale proceeds are being transferred to pay for Chinese aided projects ranging from light industries to road construction in this kingdom.

The Nepalese trade delegation will discuss with Chinese leaders to find ways and means to increase the trade turnover between the two countries, a concerned official source told AFP.

During the 5-day formal visit of Chinese Vice Premier Teng Hsiao-ping to Katmandu last February, high-level discussions were held on the expansion of trade between the two countries. This trade delegation was being sent to Peking following the agreement reached during Mr Teng's visit, the source added.

PAKISTAN

SUPREME COURT HEARING ON BHUTTO APPEAL BEGINS 20 MAY

BK201744Y Karachi Domestic Service in English 1700 GMT 20 May 78 BK

[Text] In Rawalpindi, the Supreme Court today began hearing the appeal against the Lahore High Court judgment on the Mohammad Ahmed Khan murder case. All nine judges of the Supreme Court, including the chief justice, Mr Justice S. Anwarul Haq, are hearing the appeal.

The chief justice first dealt with the application of Mr Zulfiqar Ali Bhutto. In his order the chief justice said that the objections raised by the appellant were altogether misconceived and ill-founded.

Stating that he had not the slightest bias or prejudice against the appellant, the chief justice said he would have unhesitatingly withdrawn from the case if he had felt that he would not be able to act according to the dictates of his conscience and his oath to do justice without fear or favor, affection or illwill. In view of the importance of the case, he said, he had decided that it be heard by all nine judges of the court, including himself.

Disposing of one of the points raised in the application, the chief justice said the judiciary in Pakistan had always endeavored to perform its functions according to its conscience and the law. He particularly mentioned the judicial review toward the actions of the martial authority and the CMLA [Chief Martial Law Administrator] himself had been subjected for the first time [as heard] and also to the relief granted to the citizens by the superior courts in innumerable cases.

Referring to the alleged combination of the offices of the president and chief justice, Mr Justice S. Anwarul Haq said this arrangement was in contrast to the arrangements ordered by Mr Bhutto during his regime. He pointed out that the seniormost judge of the Supreme Court was appointed acting chief justice for the duration that he served as the acting president. In contrast, when Mr Bhutto appointed the chief justices of Sind, Punjab and the NWFP [Northwest Frontier Province] as acting governors for varying periods, he refused to appoint acting chief justices in disregard to the advice of the then chief justice of Pakistan. Mr Bhutto, he pointed out, thus compelled the same person to hold dual charge at the head of the provincial executive and the judiciary simultaneously.

Mr Yahya Bakhtiar, the counsel for the principal accused, today began his arguments. He alleged that the case was [word indistinct- and that the Lahore High Court was biased and hostile. He further maintained that the record of the court was, thus, a faithful reproduction of what transpired in the course of the trial. He also dealt at length with the evidence of Mr Mashud Mahmood, the approver. The proceedings of the court will be held on a day to day basis.

SRI LANKA

PARLIAMENT OUTLAWS 'LIBERATION TIGERS' MOVEMENT

BK191455Y Hong Kong AFP in English 1433 GMT 19 May 78 BK

[Text] Colombo, May 19 (AFP)--Sri Lanka's Parliament today passed a bill to proscribe the "Liberation Tigers" terrorist movement in the country. The bill also provides for the proscribing of any other organisation which advocates the use of violence to achieve its objects. The bill was passed by 131 to 25 votes with the minority Tamil United Liberation Front (TULF) and the Sri Lanka Freedom Party (SLFP) of former Prime Minister Mrs Sirimavo Bandaranaike voting against. The law will be in operation for 1 year.

The "Liberation Tigers" movement, consisting of a group of militant minority Tamil youth, is responsible for a number of killings, including the murder of seven police officers, bank-holdups and highway robberies, the police suspect.

The SLFP, which was threatened by a youth insurgency when it was in power in 1971, pledged full support to the government in its measures against the terrorists but opposed the bill protesting against powers given to the president to proscribe other organisations.

The TULF, which is asking for a separate state for the Tamil minority, while deploring the incidence of violence said it was following Gandhian principles and would not resort to violence to achieve its objects. The TULF also opposed powers given to the president to proscribe other organisations and warned Parliament that these powers could be used to outlaw even political parties and trade unions.

The prime minister, Ranashinghe Premadasa, replying to opposition criticism assured the house that the legislation would not be used against democratic political parties and other democratic organisations. He said the legislation was necessary to bring the "Liberation Tigers" and other similar organisations under control and volunteered to limit the operation of the bill [to] one year.

As the Constitutional Court had held that a provision in the bill, which gave the minister in charge of the subject powers for forfeiture of moneys, securities or credits and movable and immovable property of a proscribed organisation, was inconsistent with the constitution, the law had to be passed with a two-thirds majority.

Any person convicted under this bill is liable to imprisonment up to 7 years. The "Liberation Tigers" movement will be automatically proscribed under this law as soon as the speaker of the National State Assembly gives his formal assent to it. The bill prohibits the publication of any matter relating to a proscribed organisation except with the approval of a censor to be appointed for the purpose.

Meanwhile, the police have named 38 more persons wanted in connection with terrorist activities. Their photographs have been published in posters and "handsome" rewards offered for information regarding them. The leader of the TULF, Mr Appapillai Amirthalingam, who is also leader of the opposition, told Parliament that the photograph of his son, who is in London, had also been published in the poster as one of the "wanted men," and he charged that this was a part of a campaign carried on by the police to smear himself and his party by trying to show that they had a connection with the "Liberation Tigers" movement.

Last night Parliament passed another bill to prohibit or restrict the release on bail by certain courts of persons who surrender or who are produced in connection with the commission of grave offences.

BRIEFS

WHEAT PROCUREMENT IN INDIA--Wheat procurement in India in 1978 has nearly reached the 3 million ton mark. This almost doubles the figure of last year. The arrival of wheat in the markets of various states so far is about 3.06 million tons compared to 1.68 million tons in 1977. [Delhi General Overseas Service in English 1000 GMT 22 May 78 BK]

JOURNALISTS LEAVE FOR CHINA--A team of Indian journalists left for China on 21 May on a 3-week visit. This is the first such delegation to visit China in about 17 years. The visit has been sponsored by the Government of India in response to an invitation by NCNA. [Delhi General Overseas Service in English 1000 GMT 22 May 78 BK]

INDIAN-BELGIAN CULTURAL AGREEMENT--India and Belgium signed a cultural exchange program for 1978-79 in New Delhi on 19 May. The program envisages cooperation in the field of art, culture, sports, press, film, radio and TV, education and science and technology. Under the program, handicraft exhibitions and film festivals are to be held in each other's country. [Delhi Domestic Service in English 1530 GMT 19 May 78 BK]

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